

Mr Heseltine withholds £200m from councils

Councils which have cut their budgets will suffer the overspenders because of a government decision to withhold £200m from its grant to local authorities this year. It will be restored if eventual spending is within limits set by the Government. Seventeen councils will be penalized for "blatantly ignoring requests for cuts."

Fourteen penalized for overspending

Christopher Warman, Government spokesman, said the Government is to withhold £200m from its grant to local authorities because of "blatant disregard" for the Government's exhortations to cut their spending. The Government's exhortations were issued yesterday by Mr. Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, who disclosed that local government manpower has been cut by 14 per cent since June 1979 and June, the largest reduction in manpower achieved in one year. The £200m withheld from all councils in proportion to their total grant will be used to fund the overspending for the year in the targets. If the targets are missed, those authorities will have to cut their budgets or face a loss of grant. Mr. Heseltine said: "I am aware that I have no statutory power to discriminate between councils, but I shall be using my discretion to penalize those who are most responsible for the overspend. I shall be using my discretion to penalize those who are most responsible for the overspend. I shall be using my discretion to penalize those who are most responsible for the overspend."

The Government intends to penalize 14 individual councils. They are all Labour-controlled, with the exception of Hambleton and Fulham, where the Conservatives hold the seat of power, and 11 of the 12 are London boroughs. They are Camden, which will see its grant reduced by £2m; Islington (£2.2m); Hammersmith (£1.5m); Lambeth (£2.1m); Hackney (£1m); Lewisham (£97m); Greenwich (£1.5m); Brent (£1.1m); Westminster (£1.1m); Wandsworth (£1.1m); and Haringey (£1.1m). The other three are Greater London Council (£1.5m), based on the 1979-80 figures, and the Greater London Council (£1.5m), based on the 1979-80 figures, and the Greater London Council (£1.5m), based on the 1979-80 figures.

Mr. Heseltine's decision has caused immediate protest from the Association of Metropolitan Authorities. Mr. Jack Smart, chairman, said there was no justification for reducing the grant and the application of national arrangements. There is no real danger of a general overspend, he said. He said the Government's decision to withhold £200m from councils is "a very serious and unjustified attack on local government."

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Cuban and Vietnamese advisers experienced in guerrilla warfare are helping the Soviet Army Russians switch to commando-type raids in Afghanistan

From Kabul, Sept 18. The Russians have changed both their tactics and fighting forces in Afghanistan, according to military observers here. In the wake of a visit of a high-powered Soviet military delegation to Kabul three weeks ago, older and more experienced Soviet soldiers have been reported to be replacing the young, inexperienced conscript soldiers who have hitherto formed the backbone of the Soviet Army in Afghanistan. Simultaneously, the Russians are changing over to motorized infantry units, having finally accepted the inefficiency of armour in the mountainous Afghan terrain. Helicopter-borne commando-type assaults are now being adopted. The first step, it is understood, is to clear the land by aerial bombing, followed by airdropping of troops. This, of course, means that without armour support, the Soviet troops on the ground are now left to fight the mujahidin with only guerrilla tactics. Cuban and Vietnamese advisers, experienced in such warfare, are said to be in Kabul to aid the Soviet Army. The picture that emerges is one in which Soviet and Afghan forces—altogether about 120,000 soldiers—control the main towns: Kabul, Kandahar, Herat, Ghazni, Jalalabad, Nizari, Shahr, Kunduz and some of the surrounding countryside. The mujahidin are said to control vast tracts in the east in Paktia, Ningerhar and Logar provinces; in the north-east in Badakhshan, Wakhan and Kunar; in the north around Mazar; in the west around Herat; and in the south between Kabul, Ghazni and Kandahar. This appears to mean that the mujahidin are harassing road traffic in general and delaying the Soviet Army in this region. They have the allegiance of the local population. This resistance is sufficient to worry the Soviet forces and keep them on constant war footing. Just how long this situation, described to me by one perceptive diplomat as a "moving stalemate", can continue, does of course depend on how much aid the mujahidin can get. And that means not just local support but arms and money from outside Afghanistan. But few diplomats doubt that the Russians will eventually "control" the country. All they need to understand is that controlling Afghanistan has historically been different from the type of control they have sought, and obtained, in the Soviet Union itself.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Army is making rapid preparations for a long stay in the country. With the first snowfalls expected in less than six weeks' time, there is a certain urgency to constructions being undertaken. New roads, supply depots for fuel and ammunition, and concrete winter barracks are being built to establish proper garrisons. The mujahidin are harassing road traffic in general and delaying the Soviet Army in this region. They have the allegiance of the local population. This resistance is sufficient to worry the Soviet forces and keep them on constant war footing. Just how long this situation, described to me by one perceptive diplomat as a "moving stalemate", can continue, does of course depend on how much aid the mujahidin can get. And that means not just local support but arms and money from outside Afghanistan. But few diplomats doubt that the Russians will eventually "control" the country. All they need to understand is that controlling Afghanistan has historically been different from the type of control they have sought, and obtained, in the Soviet Union itself.

Paint casts doubt on the Shroud of Turin

By Clifford Longley. The American scientist who proved the Vinland Map to be a forgery has discovered evidence of a similar kind on the Shroud of Turin which points to it having been painted, and not the original winding cloth in which Jesus' body was wrapped. Dr. Walter McCrone, of Chicago, has established the presence of artist's pigment in considerable quantities. Microscopic tests have revealed stains from iron oxide, a constituent of traditional artists' materials such as red ochre. At a confidential meeting of the British Society for the Shroud of Turin, at which Dr. McCrone disclosed his evidence, he is said to have suggested that the shroud was a "fake". There is some disagreement about his exact remarks, and embarrassment that they have been repeated outside the meeting because of the promise of secrecy by which all scientists working on the shroud are bound. His conclusions are the subject of the main story in today's edition of the *Catholic Herald*, under the heading: "Turin Shroud 'is a fake', says top United States scientist." While complaining about the publicity given to Dr. McCrone's findings in this story, Mr. Ian Wilson, who chaired the meeting, and the Rev David Sox, secretary of the society, confirmed that the address raised doubts about the shroud's authenticity. They insisted that Dr. McCrone's work should be seen in the context of other scientific tests, the results of which have not yet been published. It is understood that other tests have produced evidence supporting the shroud's authenticity. All results are expected to be published next month. The *Catholic Herald* stated that Dr. McCrone was asked to make a comment "on the record", so that no breach of confidence was committed. Dr. McCrone is quoted as saying: "There is a great deal of artist's pigment on the shroud. A major portion of the image is in artist's pigment. How he did it, I cannot say." Mr. Sox said he understood Dr. McCrone considered himself still bound by the promise of secrecy, he had given and would not comment further. "I feel very strongly that all the information has yet to come up, and it has to be debated and argued, even if it does disturb some people." The Shroud of Turin, whose history is known only since the fourteenth century, is venerated as the original linen burial cloth in which Christ's body was wrapped after the Crucifixion. It bears mysterious markings which, in a photographic negative, appear to be an image of a man's body, with beard and marks of injury and crucifixion. Extensive scientific tests were carried out in 1978, except for a Carbon 14 dating test which has yet to be done. It was Dr. McCrone who showed that the Vinland Map, allegedly medieval, was drawn with ink which microscopic examination showed was much more modern. Reports of Dr. McCrone's findings have been circulating for some time. Former shroud believers appear to have had their faith shaken by his conclusions.



Mrs Margaret Thatcher being greeted by a French official on arrival in Paris last night for today's Anglo-French summit with President Giscard d'Estaing. News analysis, page 5.

Prospect of two-stage cut in MLR grows

By Fred Emery, Political Editor. A far more stringent public sector pay policy, coupled with a cut in the minimum-lending rate, over the next few months of perhaps four percentage points, in two instalments, was believed to be in prospect in high Conservative quarters last night. The new full Cabinet meeting, which began last night, was said to have been brought up to date on latest developments. It heard a report from Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, on monetary matters. Later it was said that the MLR would be reduced when the Government judged the time right. But the clear prospect is authoritatively held out for a two-point drop from the present 15 per cent rate after the Conservative Party conference at Brighton next month. The second reduction would follow, depending on the Government's credible determination to carry through a law, single-figure increase in company negotiations on pay for the Civil Service and other government employees.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher is being urged to screw the lid as tight as politically possible, to exert a real hold on public spending. Although the phrase "5 per cent" is dreaded in grim memory of Mr. Callaghan's norm in 1978, the target increase will not be much higher. There was little discussion in Cabinet yesterday of any particular topic it was said, but ministers appear to have been left in little doubt that the Prime Minister and the Chancellor are not daunted. They may have been blown off course by the recent inability to control sterling M3; but they are determined to get back on course again bringing public sector pay in line with what is happening in the private sector. Nationalized industries, especially the miners, and services with muscle are recognized as the people not to take on, but the Civil Service and government workers generally are reckoned to be a softer target. Mr. Roy Hattersley, Labour's spokesman on the environment, said last night that unless the Prime Minister heeded the calls for lower interest rates from industry and unions the damage to the economy would be irreparable. Money supply growth: Confirmation of the 3 per cent target for the money supply in August. That follows a 5 per cent growth in July (John Whitmore writes). The Bank of England reiterated its view that the underlying monetary growth in the past two months was of the order of 1 to 2 per cent a month. Report, page 19.

£40m will help BR to smoother ride

The Government has decided to raise British Rail's borrowing limit by £40m from £750m to £790m this year, the Minister of Transport, announced. It was not a U-turn by the Government, or printing money for British Rail, but a recognition of the reality of the situation, he said. Without it there might have been undesirable cuts in maintenance and additional burdens on passengers above the fares already projected for November. There had been traffic losses because of the recession, especially of freight, and economies by the railways board had not fully offset them. The board must do their utmost to keep within the new limit: any overshoot would have to be recovered. Page 2.

Little progress in Consett talks

Exploratory talks between representatives of the consortium formed to bid for the Consett steelworks and British Steel Corporation executives led by the chairman, Mr. Ian MacGregor, made little progress. One of the representatives said he was "very optimistic", but the corporation made no statement after the hour of talks and no date has been fixed for another meeting between the two sides. Page 2.

GKN profits fall more than 50 pc

Guest Keen & Nettlefolds, Britain's largest engineering company made no money in Britain during the first half of 1980 because of the steel strike and the recession in the car industry. The interim profits of the group, earned overseas, were down to only £22.4m, compared with £53.5m in the same period last year. The company has cut its interim dividend by one-third. Page 19.

British Steel reorganized

The British Steel Corporation made a number of management changes as part of a reorganization by Mr. Ian MacGregor, the corporation's chairman. Two new main operating groups will be formed: the general steel group and the strip products group. Page 19.

Invitation to girl's father

The father of Helen Smith, whose death at a party in Jiddah is being investigated by British police, has been invited to the Foreign Office for talks. Mr. Ronald Smith has never accepted the official explanation of her death. Page 2.

Dockers set to call off strike on Sunday

By David Felton, Labour Reporter. The national docks strike, which was due to start at midnight on Sunday of about 90 Transport and General Workers' Union delegates from ports around the country, but the formula will carry the union's recommendation and is unlikely to be rejected. Neither side would disclose details of the settlement last night, but it is understood to include an assurance from the employers that the Temporary Unemployed Register will not be used in future to deal with surplus labour. It was a decision by employers at Liverpool that 178 dockers due to lose their jobs this month should go on to the register, reducing their earnings from an average £114 a week to £55, that led to the union calling the strike. The union had claimed that under the terms of the Jones-Aldington committee report, published after the last national docks strike in 1972, the register could be used only as a disciplinary measure against dockers. An agreement was reached between union officials and the National Association of Port Employers at a meeting of the docks national joint council, which was adjourned until Monday for other outstanding issues to be discussed. Those will include increasing maximum severance pay to dockers prepared to leave the industry from the present £3,500 to £10,000. The employers will also be seeking union commitments on ways of encouraging more dockers to leave, possibly through early retirement. A meeting of the local dock labour board in Liverpool, which will have to administer any cuts in the port's labour force of 5,000 registered dockers, is due to be held today, but any decisions are unlikely until the outcome of Monday's talks is known. Abolition of the temporary register may be seen as a climb-down by the employers, but there was a feeling in union circles that the employers had achieved one major objective, which was to bring home to the Government the overmanning at Liverpool. Page 19.

Peace move at Rothschild

Mr. Jacob Rothschild has resigned from the board of Rothschild Continuation, the company which owns N. M. Rothschild, the family bank, in an effort to end the squabble within the family. He also intended to change the name of Rothschild Investment Trust to its initials. Mr. Rothschild resigned as a director of the bank earlier this week. Page 19.

Gains by Polish unions 'eroded'

Mr. Lech Walesa, the Polish strikers' leader, said the agreements the unions had negotiated were already being whittled away by the authorities. He said, in an interview, that the unions were not firm enough. He did not rule out the possibility of further strikes. Page 6.

West Ham faced with suspension

West Ham United could be suspended from the European Cup football competition after crowd disturbances by their supporters during their march with the trophy in Madrid. Police were called in and 50 spectators removed. It was West Ham's first European match for four years. Page 11.

Leonardo manuscript: Trustees of the Holkham estate have agreed to meet the Minister for the Arts to discuss proposed sale

Police swoop: New arrests may lead to an important turn in the inquiry codenamed Operation Countryman. 4. Bourn: Bishops are not taking sides in election, cardinal says 5. Classified advertisements: Appointments, pages 7, 26; Car buyers' guide, 26; Personal, 27, 28; Ski 80 81, 8, 9.

ATV's new series Flickers: Paul Griffiths on the London Mozart Players

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Pope calls for Jerusalem to become city of peace

From John Earle, Rome, Sept 18. The Pope today expressed the wish that Jerusalem should become a city of peace, because of its biblical and historical significance, at a point of convergence for Christians, Jews, and Muslims. Since Israel proclaimed Jerusalem, its eternal capital, the Pope has held a series of meetings with personalities from the area, to further the Vatican's objective of gaining international status for the city. Addressing a group of 200 Transjordanians and students at his summer residence in Castelgandolfo, the Pope said: "It is my hope and prayer that your attention and research on the biblical and spiritual significance of Jerusalem, the city of the rock, the city of the Resurrection, where the Church suffers bitterly its divisions and the spiritual heirs of Abraham still face each other painfully should contribute to making it really the holy city, the city of peace." The latest to be received in the round of consultations was Monsignor Antonio del Giudice, Pro-Nuncio in Iraq and Kuwait, who saw the Pope this morning. Lebanon raid, page 6.

Full-scale hunt for two men after four killings

Stewart Tandler, one Reporter. Two men wanted in connection with four murders and shootings in the past three weeks are being sought in London, in one of the most intense man-hunts for years. The first murders were of an elderly couple in east London. One of the men telephoned the police last weekend and gave a warning that if the search became public innocent people would be killed. The police decided not to use descriptions. But on Wednesday two men were shot dead in a house in west London. A Scotland Yard said last night that Mr. James Anderson, aged 42, of Hammersley, Hammersley, Stratford, east London, and Mr. Michael Jamieson, aged 23, from Folkestone, Kent, were the men to be sought and should be challenged by the public.



Mr. James Anderson (left) and Mr. Michael Jamieson, wanted by the police after four murders.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner David Powell, head of London's detectives, said search was "of the first category of importance". The men had to be found quickly and public help was urgently needed. At a conference by senior officers yesterday afternoon it was decided that in view of the public responsibility for public safety, the police would name the men. The first deaths for which detectives "want" to interview the men occurred on August 29.

Continued on page 5, col 2

The Red Cross

British Red Cross Society, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EJ.

To D.J. Pigott, Director General. Please send me details of the Society's work, with information on the tax advantages to UK residents of a bequest to charity.

Name _____ Address _____

Just send the coupon.

The Red Cross will help us go on caring

THE TIMES FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 19 1980

**There are
some
problems
your
overseas
customers
just cannot
control**

The exporter's market is the world: a volatile place, where disaster can intervene at any time.

It could take the form of a terrible tragedy, such as this department store fire in South America. It might be an earthquake, a revolution, an invasion. Or simply a total economic collapse.

But too often, the consequence is that the overseas customer, with the best will in the world, cannot meet his commitments.

Last year, ECGD paid British exporters over £250 million for losses sustained overseas, often in countries considered to be safe.

Of these losses, nearly £70 million were due to the individual buyer's default or insolvency, while about £180 million were through political causes (such as import

restrictions or transfer difficulties).

In other words, nowhere is completely safe. Buyers' companies can still fail in stable countries as easily as governments in shaky ones.

Yet many British companies still have their heads firmly in the sand, thinking "it could never happen to us."

It could: ask many of the 12,000 British exporters insured with ECGD, a government department with over 60 years' experience in helping the exporter.

ECGD offers the only credit insurance available which covers you for non-payment on exports of goods or services, world-wide — irrespective of whether it's the customer or the country that fails.

But ECGD also benefits the exporter in many other ways. Opening corridors for cheap finance, for instance, by

giving cover direct to the financing bank.

Or providing cover for sales from stock held overseas, (and for the stock itself). And cover for contracts financed or invoiced in foreign currencies.

Of course, if you do take out ECGD cover, there can be no guarantee that you'll ever need it.

Equally well, there's no guarantee that you won't.

ECCD

EXPORT WITH CONFIDENCE.

[illegible]

HOME NEWS

New arrests may lead to important turn for Countryman inquiry

By Stewart Tandler
Crime Reporter

Important developments may be imminent in Operation Countryman, the inquiry into allegations of police corruption in London, as a result of arrests made yesterday in a separate police operation into armed robberies in many parts of Britain.

Yesterday morning 20 men and women were held by officers taking part in Operation Countryman, the inquiry into allegations of police corruption in London, as a result of arrests made yesterday in a separate police operation into armed robberies in many parts of Britain.

The operation was begun, with principal police officers, two years ago to investigate allegations of police corruption in London, as a result of arrests made yesterday in a separate police operation into armed robberies in many parts of Britain.

ITV refuses BBC drive on licences

By Kenneth Gosling

An advertising campaign on independent television intended to stem the loss of the £25m a year lost by licence evasion has been ruled out because it would have included excerpts from BBC programmes.

The series of commercials, estimated to cost £1m, has been withdrawn and provincial papers and local radio will be used instead.

The Home Office, planning an autumn campaign through the Central Office of Information and an advertising agency, examined a number of possibilities for television commercials showing the sort of programmes at risk because of evasion.

Mix-up led to deaths in train crash

A mix-up between two railway workers caused the Irish Republic's worst train crash, in which 18 people died, a public inquiry was told yesterday.

The state-backed transport company, CIE, told the inquiry inspector that the accident would not have happened but for a misunderstanding between Mr Dennis O'Sullivan, a signaller, and Mr William Condon, a points man.

The company has held a private investigation into the accident, at Butevant station, on Cork, on August 1, when the Dublin to Cork express, packed with holiday weekend passengers, came off the rails.

Airline's good news lifts aviation world

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Air Europe, an independent airline specializing in package holiday flights, yesterday provided an antidote to the gloom that has enveloped British civil aviation this week by announcing that its capacity for the coming winter, and for the summer of 1981, is sold out.

A total of 700,000 passengers will be carried by the airline next summer in its fleet of seven Boeing 737-200 aircraft, and it is seeking an additional 100,000 passengers.

£28,000 in subsidy for trawler owners

By Hugh Clayton
Agriculture Correspondent

The Government announced aid for trawler owners yesterday and opened a campaign aimed at partial dismantling of the EEC common agricultural policy. Trawler companies are to receive up to £28,000 in subsidies so that they can keep their boats afloat until the Community settles on a common fisheries policy.

Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, Minister of State at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, told boat owners in London that the £14m of fisheries aid announced by the Government in August was to be parcelled out in direct subsidies according to vessel size.

Labour civil defence ban overturned

By Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

Conservatives on the Lothian Regional Council were granted an interim order to prevent the Labour group from banning cooperation in a national civil defence exercise.

The Labour group had withdrawn its headquarters and staff from the exercise, "Square Leg", planned as the first thorough test of Scotland's civil defence against nuclear attack.

Children's unit takes legal advice on report

By Our Education Correspondent

The National Children's Bureau is taking legal advice on the possibility of a libel action against the Centre for Policy Studies and the authors of a report, published by the centre yesterday, containing fierce criticism of the bureau's research activities.

Mr John Marks and Mrs Caroline Cox described the bureau's recent report on the progress of children in different types of secondary school.

Doctors advised against rush to buy computers

By Our Medical Correspondent

Doctors should not rush to buy computers for their surgeries, the British Medical Association said yesterday. A few medical enthusiasts were installing computer systems but most doctors were being advised to wait for the results of further studies.

That advice was given by Dr John Ball, chairman of the association's general medical services committee, which looks after the interests of general practitioners.

Fourth channel, with tiny audiences, could be one of the world's least cost-effective stations

Welsh language TV campaigners may regret their victory

From Tim Jones
Cardiff

The Welsh language fourth channel television service to be broadcast in the principality could be one of the least cost-effective stations in the Western world, and the question of its finance and programme scheduling is causing serious concern to the Government, the BBC and the independent television companies.

Now that the dust created by Welsh Nationalist euphoria over their successful campaign to change government policy has settled, the debate in Wales can be conducted on a more practical level.



Mrs Kathleen Tynan and Mr Peter Brook outside St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, yesterday, after the memorial service for Mr Kenneth Tynan, her husband. Service, page 17.

'Ineffective' dons should be weeded out, report says

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Bold recommendations to rationalize staff and academic provision at Southampton University are made in a report by a working group chaired by the university's vice-chancellor, published today. The report includes proposals to close a department and a scheme to weed out "ineffective" dons.

The working party of senior university academics was set up by Professor John Roberts when he assumed office as vice-chancellor last November. Its brief was to consider the academic goals of the university and to make recommendations in the light of what is known about future financial provision.

Big cuts in National Bus intercity coach fares

By Michael Bailly
Transport Correspondent

In a display of market forces to gladden Mrs Margaret Thatcher's heart, the state-owned National Bus Company yesterday announced large cuts on intercity coach fares.

Standby fares for passengers at a coach station just before departure time will be offered at discounts of up to half on normal fares on many routes from next Sunday. Midweek economy returns will be available at a discount of a quarter.

Most oppose royal hunting

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

Two-thirds of the people of Britain disapprove of the Prince of Wales and Princess Anne taking part in foxhunts, the League against Cruel Sports said yesterday in a poll.

The poll was part of a survey of letters sent to the Prince and Princess three weeks ago, asking them to stop hunting. It said that no reply had been received.

Prison officers 'scapegoats for failures'

From Our Correspondent
Falkirk

Prison officers are being made scapegoats for the failures of the prison service, Mr David McCullum, chairman of the Scottish Prison Officers' Association, said in his address to the annual conference in Falkirk yesterday.

Mr McCullum, an officer at the special unit at Barlinnie prison, Glasgow, said people did not seem concerned at how escapes from jails became possible.

Lord Willis renews call for TV chief to resign

By Our Financial Staff

Lord Willis, the playwright, stepped into the boardroom battle at Westward Television again yesterday with an attack on Lord Harris of Greenwich, the chairman, and a call for him to resign.

If Westward died, he said, death would come from wounds inflicted in the past few weeks. The present troubles sprang directly from the appointment of Lord Harris to the board.

Boy fell to death at danger spot on nature trail

From Our Correspondent
Preston

A verdict of accidental death was recorded at an inquest yesterday on a boy who died after falling 49ft from a picturesque nature trail in West Yorkshire.

Andrew Humphries, aged 10, of Kenwood Gardens, Copthorne, Surrey, was in a party of five from the St George's County Primary School, in Shrewsbury, visiting Ingleton Falls. The group was walking in single file along the narrow path with a teacher at each end when he tripped.

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If Jean is to have a roof over her head - we need all the help we can get

The British Home and Hospital for Incurables was built 90 years ago to provide specialist care and attention for patients with progressive and incurable illnesses. It has fulfilled its objectives magnificently over these years thanks to the generosity of a wide circle of kind friends, for it receives no Government aid.

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Lord Willis renews call for TV chief to resign

By Our Financial Staff

Lord Willis, the playwright, stepped into the boardroom battle at Westward Television again yesterday with an attack on Lord Harris of Greenwich, the chairman, and a call for him to resign.

If Westward died, he said, death would come from wounds inflicted in the past few weeks. The present troubles sprang directly from the appointment of Lord Harris to the board.

Prison officers 'scapegoats for failures'

From Our Correspondent
Falkirk

Prison officers are being made scapegoats for the failures of the prison service, Mr David McCullum, chairman of the Scottish Prison Officers' Association, said in his address to the annual conference in Falkirk yesterday.

Mr McCullum, an officer at the special unit at Barlinnie prison, Glasgow, said people did not seem concerned at how escapes from jails became possible.

Boy fell to death at danger spot on nature trail

From Our Correspondent
Preston

A verdict of accidental death was recorded at an inquest yesterday on a boy who died after falling 49ft from a picturesque nature trail in West Yorkshire.

Andrew Humphries, aged 10, of Kenwood Gardens, Copthorne, Surrey, was in a party of five from the St George's County Primary School, in Shrewsbury, visiting Ingleton Falls. The group was walking in single file along the narrow path with a teacher at each end when he tripped.

In brief

Council's £900 cigarette picture

Wolverhampton council is spending £900 on a painting of a cigarette, which is being sold for £1,800 in London. The picture is a cigarette, which is being sold for £1,800 in London. The picture is a cigarette, which is being sold for £1,800 in London.

PC's bravery awards

Police Constable Robert Vickery, aged 37, of Hill Bridge, Somerset, received a bravery award from Mr Br. Weigh, his chief constable, yesterday for disarming a man who threatened him with a shotgun and for trying to save the life of a man who set fire to himself with petrol.

Council wine goes sour

Wine valued at £400 has been jettisoned by South Bedfordshire council, which bought for sale at the 100-foot Leas Centre, Leighton Buzzard. People holding functions the said it was too expensive, was kept too long and became undrinkable.

Corby men end strike

Nearly 400 rubber makers at British Steel Corporation plant in Corby, Northamptonshire, returned to work yesterday after striking for three days over extra payment for a job. They agreed to return to work pending more talks.

Welshmen charged

Tomos Euros Owen, aged 40, and Arwyn Sambrook, aged 38, both from Dyfed, members of the Welsh Language Society, have been charged with causing criminal damage to television relay stations in Somerset last month.

Population increase

Northamptonshire has grown in population faster than any other county in England and Wales during the past decade mainly because of immigration according to a county council report published yesterday.

Pornography seized

Sixty-five cartons of smutty pornographic books and magazines found in a lorry load vegetables and oranges Harwich on Wednesday night were valued at £250,000 customs officers.

£100 tiger licence

District councillors Chichester, West Sussex, have decided to charge a man Bosham who wants to acquire a tiger cub from a circus £1 a year for a licence.

Pupils' dress protest

About thirty children stay away from King Richard School, Paulsgrove, Portsmouth, yesterday after two pupils were banned for wearing dandruff trousers and crepe overcoats.

Guide dogs allowed

British Rail has agreed to allow guide dogs accompany blind passengers into restaurants and buffet cars on train it was announced yesterday.

Pink paraffin dearer

BP yesterday raised the price of pink paraffin by 2.6p a gallon to between 90p and 91p a gallon, attributing the rise to increased manufacturing costs.

Voyage abandoned

Miss Rose Andrews, aged 4, has abandoned her attempt to sail round Britain. Her caramaran, Locum Jo, was damaged beyond repair when it ran ashore on the Isle of Wight.

Remember 1940

Thousands of men and women who served in the Royal Air Forces have given their health or even their lives in the defence of freedom and many of them or their dependants are now in need of help. Please assist by giving all you can for an emblem during **WINGS WEEK** or please send us a donation.

PLEASE WEAR THIS EMBLEM

Wings Appeal

Give as they Gave

To: Royal Air Forces Association, Appeals Dept. (Tim), Portland Road, Malvern, Worcs. WR14 2TA

I enclose a donation of for the Wings Appeal Fund.

Name

Address

No donation is too small

Doctors advised against rush to buy computers

By Our Medical Correspondent

Doctors should not rush to buy computers for their surgeries, the British Medical Association said yesterday. A few medical enthusiasts were installing computer systems but most doctors were being advised to wait for the results of further studies.

That advice was given by Dr John Ball, chairman of the association's general medical services committee, which looks after the interests of general practitioners.

The committee had commissioned a report on the use of computers from Scicon, an independent consultancy group, and it will debate the report next month.

Outlining the main proposals Dr John Dawson, the association's under-secretary, said that a pilot scheme would be set up with about 100 doctors.

The report did, however, give detailed advice for any doctor who wanted to go ahead with computerization. The consultants had interviewed 30 family doctors who were using computers or planning to do so soon and had examined the commercial systems available.

The costs were high: a fairly basic system would cost about £3,000, a more comprehensive set-up perhaps £12,000 and a complete integrated system between £25,000 and £200,000.

Lord Willis renews call for TV chief to resign

By Our Financial Staff

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If Westward died, he said, death would come from wounds inflicted in the past few weeks. The present troubles sprang directly from the appointment of Lord Harris to the board.

In a letter published in the Western Morning News, Lord Willis called on Lord Harris and his supporters to take "the honourable course" and resign from the board.

Lord Harris, who replaced Mr Peter Cadbury as chairman in July after being invited by him to join the board, was ousted from the board with five other directors at a shareholders' meeting called by Mr Cadbury last week.

Boy fell to death at danger spot on nature trail

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Preston

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The inquest, at Preston, Lancashire, heard that there had been four fatal accidents on the area, said Mr Graham Farby, a teacher, said he had not been aware of the drop where Andrew fell.

Mr Howard McCann, the coroner, said the teachers could not be criticized.

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Now, against a background of soaring rising nursing costs, we find we have to replace the whole of our roof, some fifteen miles of tiles, at a cost of over £250,000.

Help us to continue to give our residents the care and security they need, £2 will put a new tile in place - if you can spare more it will be most gratefully received. We find we have to replace the whole of our roof, some fifteen miles of tiles, at a cost of over £250,000.

BHHI Roof Appeal

More than a hospital - much more than a home

PATRON: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER

The British Home and Hospital for Incurables, Crown Lane, Southampton, London SW16 1UB.

مكتبة جامعة القاهرة

ME NEWS

its in benefits could d to street lence, report claims

Levy Correspondent
The Government's commitment to restore the value of benefits when they become payable cast doubt on assurances that it was an interim measure.

The national insurance cuts would force more unemployed people to claim supplementary benefits, when they already received allowances worth 25 per cent less than most other claimants.

It was an "even more glaring injustice" that the unemployed would still be denied the higher rates when the Government had decided to reduce the waiting time for their claimants from two years to one.

The report accepts that a minority of the unemployed, estimated at between 3 and 5 per cent of the total, would be persuaded to accept the cuts. But further cuts in supplementary benefits for the unemployed would be "unjust, ineffective, and politically inept".

The committee nevertheless welcomed a number of changes in social security policy, many of which they had pressed for since 1975.

But Professor David Donnison, chairman of the commission, pointed out that most of the gains were accompanied by disadvantages.

Supplementary Benefits Committee Report (Stationary Office, £5.70).

Public told to avoid wanted men

Continued from page 1

aged 72, was found shot dead in his shoe shop in Shepherd's Bush, Mr Leonard Mintz, aged 59, his nephew and assistant in the shop, was also shot and died soon after in hospital.

Each man was shot in the chest, and they were left at the rear of the shop. Detectives found £100 in the till.

It appears that the link between the three killings was discovered yesterday.

Scotland Yard has not disclosed the connection it has traced between the incidents since Mr Anderson is described as 5ft 10in, of slim build, dark brown cropped hair, a fresh complexion and blue eyes. He has a scar on the first finger of his left hand and a tattoo on his left wrist reading "Jim and Lynn".

Mr Jamieson is 5ft 6in, slim, with a dark complexion, light brown short hair, and green eyes. He has a scar on the right hand and right palm, a mole on his left cheek and a tattoo of his date of birth on his right arm.

It is thought that the weapon used in the shooting in west London was a hand gun and police have urged the public not to approach the men.

The police is being led by Det. Chief Supt. Ronald Hay, who was in charge of the east London investigation, and Det. Chief Supt. Kenneth Merion, who was in charge of the west London investigation.

rd of Ulster homes need air, survey discloses

Christopher Thomas

A third of the houses in Ireland need attention, according to a survey published by the house-building industry yesterday. It cost £500m to carry out and repairs.

The report prompted a sharp response from Mr Philip Goodwin, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who is in charge of housing. He said the survey was "a gross distortion of the facts".

LIAMENT, September 18, 1980

gional policy cooperation sought

Parliament

In half the entire area of the EC containing 28 per cent of the population was covered by regions or sub-regions designated for special development, according to a report submitted to the House of Commons yesterday.

The report, submitted by the Committee on Regional Development, said that the regions were the main reasons for the inadequate development of the region.

Mr Griffiths said that as the world moved towards a new recession and regions of the EC took the brunt of the damage inflicted by the recession, it was imperative to respond in the most effective way possible.

Mr Griffiths said that the regions were the main reasons for the inadequate development of the region.

C urged to spend more on overseas aid

at that EEC aid as a per cent of member states' GNP should be increased to 0.7 per cent, as was contained in a resolution carried at the Council of Ministers in 1974.

The resolution was adopted by a majority of 12 to 10, with the UK voting against.

The resolution urged the member states to increase their aid to developing countries.

WEST EUROPE

News analysis

Britain and France keen to heal relations

By David Spenser
Diplomatic Correspondent

Mrs Thatcher's meeting with President Giscard d'Estaing at the Elysée today and an important speech by the Prime Minister at the Anglo-French Council gathering in Bordeaux tonight, in London, are opportunities to put Anglo-French relations on a better footing, after a period of mutual and damaging recriminations.

Mrs Thatcher visited Paris last night.

The main trouble has been over money, as it often is when friends fall out, and given the divergent interests of the two countries in the EEC, differences of outlook are bound to remain.

None the less, the Anglo-French Council meeting is a conciliatory and perhaps symbolic occasion on which to try to remove misunderstandings and show that British attitudes are not quite as belligerent as they might have seemed.

Apart from the obvious issues of defence, in the light of the situation in Poland in particular, and the strains in the Western alliance, Mrs Thatcher and President Giscard d'Estaing are expected to pay most attention to what is happening in Brussels.

The latest split over implementation of the agreement on Britain's budgetary contribution is not taken too seriously in Whitehall. Agreements of principle in the community have always been adhered to in the past and there is no reason to doubt that the deal will be worked out.

But Greece is to join the EEC next year, and Spain and Portugal are knocking at the door. The agricultural policy, which has caused so much dissension, is going to need restructuring, and as revenue runs up against the ceiling of 1 per cent of VAT, the financing problem will become more serious.

The meeting today, therefore, is a useful opportunity for the British and the French to discuss where the community is going, and what they hope to achieve.

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, who has been slightly indisposed, is not going to be attending the United Nations General Assembly in New York next week, and Sir Ian Gilmour, Lord Privy Seal, will lead the discussions with the French Foreign Minister.

In a recent interview on French television, Mrs Thatcher said of Britain and France: "We've been through a lot together and we must continue to get on together." That is the keynote of the British approach.

Leading article, page 15

Australia close to accord with Community

From Michael Hornsby
Brisbane, Sept 18

Mr. Doug Anthony, the Australian Deputy Prime Minister, left Brussels tonight claiming "satisfactory progress" towards the settlement of Australia's long-standing trade dispute with the EEC.

On his return to Canberra, Mr. Anthony told a press conference here, he would be recommending to his Government that it should proceed with the purchase of four European air buses at a cost of more than £120m.

Conclusion of the purchase had been in doubt, even though Trans Australia Airlines, the state-owned carrier, had put down a deposit of about £15m on the four aircraft, because of anger in Canberra over the EEC's agricultural trading policies.

Mr. Anthony said that the purchase had been in doubt, even though Trans Australia Airlines, the state-owned carrier, had put down a deposit of about £15m on the four aircraft, because of anger in Canberra over the EEC's agricultural trading policies.

The man Herr Strauss wants to run economy

From Roger Berthoud
Kiel, Sept 18

Since 1952 the Land Government in Schleswig-Holstein has been led by the Christian Democrats (CDU) with Dr Gerhard Stoltenberg at the helm as Prime Minister for the past nine years, during which time the CDU has governed without coalition partners.

Sometimes called the "northern light" of his party, Dr Stoltenberg is 52 years old, a tall, blond, handsome man. He once taught modern history at Kiel University and he is a former federal Minister of Technology.

If the CDU, led by Herr Franz Strauss, does not unexpectedly win the October 5 election, Dr Stoltenberg can expect to be appointed Vice-Chancellor and Finance Minister.

Does he think the Christian Democrats are faring in the campaign? "We have succeeded in bringing domestic issues into the debate," he said. "Schmidt wanted it to be just about foreign policy."

The CDU argument that the Government was overspending had the most impact, he said. As a result Herr Schmidt's last speech had been rather aggressive for a supposed statesman.

Barbaric death of Fox cubs.

The season of fox cub hunting has now arrived. Over the next few weeks, cubs all over the country will be set upon by hunters and their young hounds. WHY? Just for fun.

And to train the hounds, so that when they are older they will have the smell of blood in their nostrils to join the chase in pursuit of the grown fox. We ask the question: WHY in a civilised society should we allow this deliberate, organised slaughter of cub foxes in the name of 'sport'? It is barbaric beyond reason. It is blood on OUR hands.

We need your protest, your voice, your financial help. Write to your MP today.

Help The League finance this campaign.

Together, we can eliminate this persecution of our wild animals. Please help.

Blood on our hands

Extract from letter from Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food:

... It is estimated that the loss of lambs to foxes does not constitute a loss of economic significance to the farming community nationally.

To: The League Against Cruel Sports Ltd. 1 Reform Row, London N17

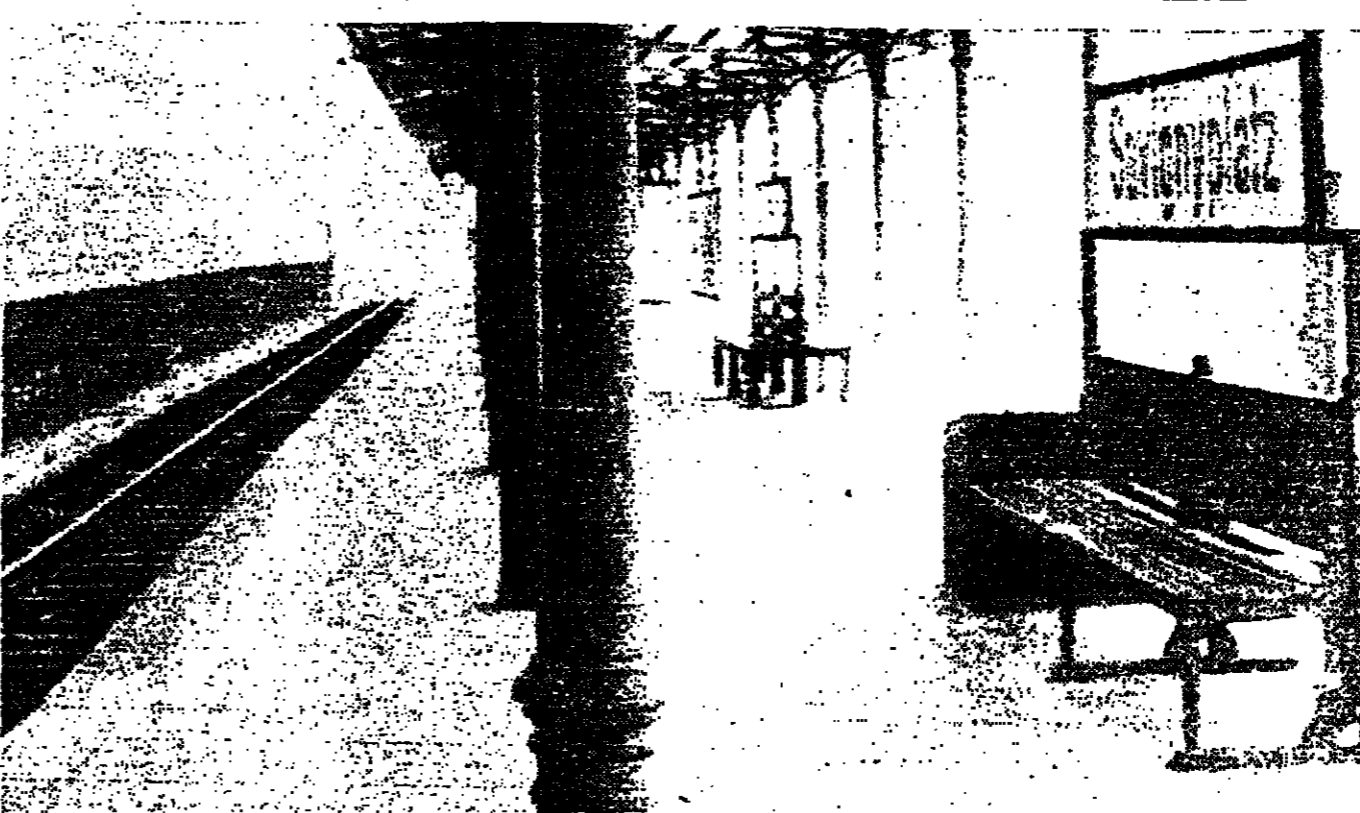
I wish to donate £_____ for your campaign against the persecution of our wild animals.

Please send me further information about the League's activities. ☐ tick if required.

Name _____

Address _____

TMS



A deserted station after West Berlin employees of the East German state railway struck for the first time since 1949.

Rail strike severs West Berlin's supply link

Berlin, Sept 18. — Striking West Berlin employees of the East German state railway, Deutsche Reichsbahn, today severed the city's supply rail link with West Germany to press demands for higher pay and free trade unions.

The strikers stopped all goods and mail trains on the 110-mile rail corridor through East Germany to the West, and threatened to stop passenger traffic as well if their demands were not met.

West Berlin officials said essential supplies for the city's industry were in no immediate danger of running out. But the city government was studying contingency plans to transfer stranded freight traffic to lorries and barges if the strike continued.

Strikers said Reichsbahn officials at several West Berlin stations warned them that they could be dismissed if they refused to return to work.

This is the first strike by West Berlin Reichsbahn workers since 1949, when they won the right to be paid in West German currency.

The strikers, 90 per cent of whom are members of the East German Trade Union Confederation, are demanding the right to be represented by unions of their choice. They also want a 150-mark (about £27) monthly pay rise, longer paid holidays and better social security provisions.

Reichsbahn runs urban transit services on both sides of the divided city under an agreement made before the city was divided by the Berlin Wall.

The railway's East German employees who normally work alongside the 3,500 West Berlin railwaymen have not joined the strike.

East Berlin claims the transit service is losing 140m marks annually. Ninety West Berliners have already been laid off.—Reuter.

Christian Democrat evocation of grim past ridiculed by young

From Patricia Clough
Hildesheim, Sept 18

The scene: A rainy evening in Hildesheim, a north German town bombed to pieces in the war and unimaginatively rebuilt. Not far away army vehicles of several countries are rumbling to and fro along country roads, engaged in Nato's huge autumn manoeuvres.

From the platform, Herr Helmut Kohl, the burly chairman of the opposition Christian Democrat party is warning his audience that peace has become more fragile, the Government's foreign policy is short-sighted. The Soviet Union is arming itself to the teeth: "You idiot," shouts a bedraggled teenage girl in the crowd.

A group of elderly women who have probably lived through two wars turn and glare indignantly. "Such types," one exclaims in disgust.

In Hildesheim, as in other north German towns where Herr Kohl campaigned that day, an invisible line seemed to be drawn through the audience, dividing their attitude to the speaker. There were the elderly, the middle-aged, the young, the old, around 30 who had known war, or at least the hardships of the difficult years that followed. These listeners stood attentively, clearly understanding the speaker's meaning, even if they did not vote CDU.

Then, far less numerous, were the people in their teens or twenties, who had known only peace and a life made comfortable by the economic miracle. They listened sceptically, gossiped, fidgeted or just wandered off. Several groups of teenagers—clearly not political extremists—whistled, booed, rang bells and jeered. They had no slogans, no counter-arguments. They simply thought the man on the stage was ridiculous.

"We Germans know what war and hunger mean," he says, cannot pass such a terrible experience on, but we must tell them about it," he says. And here it is the older people who applaud.

It can hardly be disputed that Herr Kohl is an example of the loyalty and hard work he wants from the young. He is storming up and down the country on 122 speaking engagements, campaigning for a chancellor candidate who ruthlessly ousted him from the job, in an election his party can hardly win.

Herr Kohl knows that, in north Germany at least, many CDU supporters wish that he were the candidate instead of Herr Franz Strauss.

"Kohl is more controlled, more reliable than Strauss," one CDU listener told me. "He is not as smart as Strauss, but he is a better man," another said.

Herr Kohl scarcely mentions Herr Strauss's name in his speeches, nor does he hold out an illusion of victory. While campaigning for this election his thoughts must partly be on the next in 1984.

Herr Kohl cannot have failed to notice that, apart from Herr Strauss he gets the greatest ovations at party gatherings. He should be in a strong position to make a comeback as a candidate in four years.

He has numerous opponents among party leaders and several rivals, particularly Herr Ernst Albrecht, and Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the Prime Minister of Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein. But they may both lose their positions in the Land elections during the next two years which would remove them from the race.

Interference in poll denied by cardinal

From Our Own Correspondent
Bonn, Sept 18

Cardinal Josef Höffner, the president of the West German Catholic Bishops' Conference, today rejected charges that the bishops, in their pastoral letter on the elections, had supported Franz Josef Strauss and the opposition parties.

The bishops were attacked by Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, and the coalition parties for criticising the "dangerously high state debts" and growing state interference in private lives.

The Social Democrats and Free Democrats saw this as clear advice to vote for Herr Strauss, who has made these issues main themes in his campaign, and as unwarranted political interference.

"I must protest against the suggestion that the bishops had accepted the electoral arguments of any party in their letter," Cardinal Höffner said in a statement.

The letter, he said, was based on Catholic social teachings. The bishops had a right to speak out on topical and important subjects.

The letter would be read unchanged as planned in pulpits throughout the country this weekend, he said.

The bishops' letter seems to have been simply an unfortunate blunder. The text was agreed in August, before the election campaign had really got under way and the bishops appeared to have been quite unaware that the Opposition was going to concentrate so heavily on these issues.

Dr Faustus come back, Germany has relented

From Patricia Clough
Knitrtingen, Sept 18

He boasted that he could conjure up the Devil, perform miracles, turn base metals into gold, foretell the future.

But never in his wildest flights of imagination could he have dreamed that his legend would inspire more books, plays, operas, poems, music and art works than any other.

Nor could he have imagined that on September 20 some 500 years after he was born, his native town of town after a museum devoted to him and held 10 days of festivities.

Even during his lifetime, for he really did exist, Johannes or Georg Faust was rumoured to have made a pact with the Devil. For five centuries the world has been fascinated by the legend of the man who sold his soul to gain knowledge and experiences denied to ordinary human.

The real Faust seems to have been a flamboyant, bragging, disreputable pervers. Quite probably, though it cannot be proved conclusively, he was born around 1580 in Knitrtingen, a picturesque Swabian town with crooked, high-tiled, half-timbered houses straight out of Grimm's fairy tales.

Contemporary accounts have him dismissed as a school-master for the "vilest form of lewdness" with young boys, going from town to town calling himself "Doctor Faustus" and claiming to be a magician, an astrologer, an alchemist, a prophet, a philosopher and a doctor.

For the simple people he had wondrous powers which they were convinced, surely came from the Devil. For the authorities and the better educated he was a liar and a charlatan. Chased out of town after town for his immorality and deceptions, he died about 1640—legend has it—from an explosion while trying to make gold.

His already great fame grew after his death. A century and a half later a book about him reached England.

Some years later Faust was reimported by itinerant actors back to Germany—ennobled and depicted as a man of letters for the knowledge for which he thirsted—through Christopher Marlowe's play *The Tragical History of Dr Faustus*.

Faust reappeared in puppet shows, slapstick comedies, poems, songs and plays but his image reached its peak in Goethe's two-part play, *Faust*. Here he is a man who seeks to break through all bounds of human possibilities and—unlike the traditional Faust—is not condemned but attains salvation.

The common, starchy-eyed interpretation of this play, known as the Germans' second Bible, has given rise to the word "faustisch"—a kind of striving, promethean quality which politicians in Imperial and Nazi Germany, and communists in East Germany, have liked to associate with the German character.

Dr Günther Mahal, a lecturer from Tübingen University, who has been the moving force behind the new museum, wants to correct the distortions which have grown up. The real Faust, he said, cannot have been so bad as his contemporary witnesses made him out. There were many self-styled magicians and alchemists in his day, and he must have had something special to catch people's imagination.

The 5,000-odd exhibits and books housed in the town hall of Knitrtingen, trace the progress of Faust's saga.

EEC study group likely to seek farm policy reform

By Mark Jackson
Of The Times Educational Supplement

Specific proposals for reforming the EEC common agricultural policy and transferring some of its funds to other purposes are likely to emerge from a study begun by the Community's economic and social committee.

A group of British ministers headed by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, were told by Signor Raffaele Vanni, the committee chairman, that Britain would benefit substantially by a change of the

EEC study group likely to seek farm policy reform

kind the committee is seeking. But Signor Vanni made it clear to the ministers that the study was also likely to recommend an expansion of the community's overall expenditure which would mean that member states' contributions would have to be more than the present 1 per cent of their VAT revenue.

In an interview Signor Vanni said: "None of those who have criticized the agricultural policy have come up with clear proposals as to how it should be reformed, which is what we shall seek to do."

OVERSEAS

Mr Walesa accuses regime of whittling away strikers' gains

From Daniel Priotier
of Agence France-Presse
Gdansk, Sept 18

The Polish authorities are already beginning to whittle away at the agreements reached to end the recent series of crippling strikes. Mr Lech Walesa, the strikers' leader, said today.

Speaking after yesterday's meeting of delegates of free trade unions from all over Poland who were preparing the groundwork of the new labour organization, Mr Walesa said the Government wanted to "shunt us into a siding".

In an interview Mr Walesa, himself a Baltic shipyard worker, did not rule out the possibility of further strikes to ensure the agreements were kept.

Although the unions were united, reports received from delegates on action by the authorities were worrying. Mr Walesa said: "They are beginning to erode the accords little by little because we are not firm enough. We have been too conciliatory, and the authorities by their diplomatic moves have taken advantage of it."

Mr Walesa, a devout Catholic, gave the promised broadcast, Mass as an example.

It was agreed that the Mass should be broadcast on the main radio network, but now the bishops are asking for an aid because they are being forced to have a regional trans-

mission, which would be censored," he said.

Mr Walesa said he twice telephoned the authorities but had no reply and he was now acting to make the facts public.

"We will have to think about what to do, including strike action," he said.

Asked if the process after previous unrest in 1956, 1968 and 1970 was not being repeated, Mr Walesa said:

"This time we went further, and we obtained much more. We gave ourselves a margin in order to concede a little, which was predicted, but now they want too much."

Talks with the Government were weakening the workers, Mr Walesa added. "This is why we are now saying 'No more' and we will be acting in consequence."

He said that there were still a few strikes in small firms "because of the lack of information, but that is not our fault." He personally had ended many strikes and "it was not a question of striking for the sake of it, but the strike was a useful weapon of defence."

Mr Walesa said he was aware of legal loopholes which would enable the Government to refuse to register certain unions, but this did not concern him.

"I know we have the right to strike and take other action. That is why we must push the authorities into accepting our viewpoint for the good of both sides."

Suspensions run high as Polish unions meet

From Desza Tresvisan
Warsaw, Sept 18

The future pattern of Poland's independent trade unions is beginning to take shape after the organizers from more than 30 regions met as a national coordinating committee in Warsaw and, in order to safeguard their gains, decided on a single organization with a charter modelled on the draft worked out by the experts in Gdansk.

The gathering momentum of the movement was demonstrated dramatically by the organizers who talked of massive withdrawals from the official unions, of obstacles, discrimination and harassment from local officials, of the silence of the mass media and of the fear that the intention of the authorities is to disrupt their unity.

The argument in favour of one centralized body to coordinate activity was strong, especially on the part of weaker unions.

In some cases new groups have taken on a regional character, representing a cross section of jobs in a particular area.

In others factories or institutions have formed separate groups. Suspicion, despite government assurances that they intend to live up to the agreement, runs deep and the movement, as a debate revealed, is far from feeling safe and secure.

The union in Gdansk is the strongest and best organized but it has favoured a looser confederation with strong regional committees rather than a superstructure.

But the procedure whereby each union would have to apply for registration separately raised many doubts as well as suspicion that the intention was to keep the movement split and thus to weaken it.

It was also feared that the court might find a pretext to disqualify some unions and the proposal was therefore made for all the unions to join together and register as one.

A national steering committee will be set up to meet once a month and a congress of the new unions may take place within three months.

Mr Lech Walesa, the Gdansk strike leader, is to present the application to the regional court in Warsaw and also the draft. He also presided over the first national meeting which at the end passed a resolution complaining of lack of cooperation on the part of the authorities and of distortions and misinformation.

Such obstructions were doing Poland a disservice, the resolution said, as the current situation required cohesion and unity, the removal of all stumbling blocks and cooperation in order to get out of the difficult situation.

Meanwhile, the Government has announced a series of measures designed to reform the economic system as well as to introduce further cuts in public spending.

It has also given continuing assurances of its intention to honour the agreement and facilitate the setting up of independent unions.

But observers were more convinced than ever after today's speeches that progress towards a settlement of the 10-month crisis will be slow. Many deputies spoke in favour of some sort of trial and clearly want the commission to examine the United States' role in Iran in minute detail.

"Taking the hostages was a revolutionary action that has frightened America and its government out of its wits," one speaker said.

Mr Muhammad Khazai, another deputy, called for a "severe decision" against the hostages, but said the "American frame of mind" should be prosecuted, rather than individuals.

But Mr Ali Akbar Muhammad backed a judicial trial of any hostages found guilty of espionage and singled out one of the 52.

"The first one to be tried is that one who dropped bombs on Vietnam," he said, apparently referring to Colonel David Roeder, aged 41, the air attaché at the United States Embassy.

—Reuters.



Are they twins? Mr Robert Shafraan (left) and Mr Eddy Galland, both aged 19, met each other for the first time at Liberty, New York and both gasped with surprise. Mr Shafraan had enrolled at a college where Mr Galland had been a student before he withdrew from his course. The greetings from other students for Mr Shafraan were warm and enthusiastic but everyone addressed him as "Eddy". Eventually, through a third party, the two were brought together. They believe they are twins, who were separated at birth—both were adopted as infants but know nothing of their natural parents.—UPI.

Iran Parliament puts off debate on US hostages

From Our Correspondent
Beirut, Sept 18

The Iranian Majlis (Parliament) today postponed discussion of the American hostage question and went into secret session to review the worsening border war with Iraq, which has been raging for more than a week.

The review was in response to Iraq's decision to unilaterally abrogate the 1975 agreement which defined the border between the two countries.

President Bani-Sadr received army chiefs to assess the effect of the counter-offensive which he ordered yesterday in an attempt to regain disputed territory captured by Iraq in the past few days.

Military communiqués issued in Tehran today said sporadic shooting, which punctuated the relative calm early in the morning, rapidly turned into "heavy clashes on all battlefronts".

One communiqué said Iranian forces managed to recapture the town of Irbil, while fighting continued around Qom, Shirin and Musian, which Iraq seized two days ago.

Iraq released no reports on the border situation during the day. An Iraqi military spokesman, however, denied a Tehran Radio report that an Iraqi ammunition train had been blown up near the town of Khanqin close to the border with Iran.

Iranian demands: The Iranian Parliament made no progress in setting up a special commission

Cuban will be on board Soviet spaceship

Moscow, Sept 18.—The first Cuban cosmonaut will be launched into orbit this week-end on board the Soviet spaceship Soyuz-28, the Cuban Embassy here said today.

Senior Arnold Tamayo Mendez, aged 38, will accompany the Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Romanenko on the flight.

He will be the seventh foreigner to take part in a Soviet space shot. The Embassy said the spaceship would be launched on Saturday or Sunday, depending on the weather.

Twelve seized in raid on OAS building

San Salvador, Sept 18.—Twelve hostages are being held in the San Salvador headquarters of the Organization of American States by a commando unit of the group "Revolutionary Coordination of the Masses".

Senior Alvaro Roman, an OAS representative, said here.

First reports after seizure of the OAS building early today by 10 armed members of the extreme left group said there had been, variously, 20 hostages or five.

Many things are good to look upon and bring enjoyment and happiness, but the blind must live in a land of darkness. The can, however, still enjoy the pleasure of reading by the free loan of specially printed books in Braille and Moon supplied by this Library.

LEGACIES, DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS are urgently needed and will be gratefully received by the Secretary.



NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND
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(Incorporated under National Assistance Act, 1948)

Soviet Army prepares for winter

Continued from page 1

tion facilities for the troops. The old Afghan Army of about 100,000 soldiers, based on conscription, lacked proper facilities and had virtually no cantonment or garrison infrastructure.

Construction activity can be seen all over Afghanistan. In Kabul new barracks and concrete sheds covered with thick steel sheets are being built at the airport, which is the site of the largest Soviet Army concentration in the city.

These are to house the troops and equipment at present scattered across the grass areas surrounding the runway and to replace the tent city that has sprung up in the past nine months during the winter of the airport. Lorries carrying

quarried stone to the building sites can be seen jamming the main airport road. At the same time a new runway and an extension of the old runway are being built.

At Jalalabad, near the Pakistan border, three similar barracks are being built, again at the airport. Jalalabad, which is the centre of the fiercest Mujahidin resistance, has on occasion fallen into guerrilla hands.

Reports from Doshi and farther north at Puli Khumri claim that two barracks have been completed. Doshi said to be a key supply depot for the Soviet Army. This perhaps explains why the principal connecting road to Kabul—through the Salang tunnel—is being either widened or a parallel

road is being built alongside it. North of Salang this road extends all the way to the Soviet border, and is the only hard-surface land route into the Soviet Union from Afghanistan.

It links up with principal Soviet military centres across the border at Iarnez and Dushanbe.

Just south of Termez, at Herat on the Amu Darya river, a new underground tunnel that a reinforced steel bridge is being constructed. The aim, it would seem, is to improve the roads and garrison facilities right from the Soviet border to Kabul.

According to a diplomat in Kabul, the construction of this parallel highway can be seen clearly just north of Karzai, about 11 miles from Kabul.

The efficient arrival of reinforcements such as those that NATO would have been seriously threatened in central Europe.

In exercise terms the Americans were part of an enemy offensive which is pushing back the 1st British Corps after being launched against the West with less than 48 hours' notice.

Earlier today Lieutenant General Sir Peter Long, commanding the 1st British Corps, told a press conference that the first phase of Crusader 80, in which 30,000 British reinforcements had arrived from Britain and had deployed to their battle positions, had gone better than he had expected.

"Close air support," he said, "was a thing which the British Army soldier, tired after a long journey to the continent from all parts of the United Kingdom.



Suspected extremists are rounded up as part of the crackdown ordered by Turkey's new military leaders.

Turkish leaders sworn in as 50 MPs are held

Ankara, Sept 18.—General Kenan Evren, the acting head of state, and the four members of the ruling National Security Council were sworn in a brief ceremony here today. They vowed to seek solutions to the country's problems and to prepare a new constitution.

The ceremony, held at the National Assembly building, was attended by Turkish Army commanders, diplomats, judges, and senior civil servants.

Each council member vowed to the Turkish nation that he would seek "a solution

to all the problems confronting the Turkish Republic while remaining faithful to the principles of (Kemal) Ataturk, justice, law and human rights, without bowing to any influences other than (his) own convictions and without expectation of reward."

The oath also stipulated that each official would defend the country's sovereignty and integrity. Members of the council said that they would devise a "new constitution based on the principles of a democratic and lay republic."

Earlier, the council had re-established the right of Turkish citizens to travel abroad. Only those whose departure was opposed by security forces were to be forbidden from leaving.

Fifty MPs are still being detained and some of these have been prosecuted since last week's coup. A military communiqué said today.

The communiqué, read on state radio, said the deputies or senators being held included 25 members from the Republican People's Party, 11 from the Nationalist Movement Party,

seven from the Justice Party, five from the National Salvation Party, one independent and one life-appointed senator.

The communiqué said the 50 included "those who have been prosecuted for criminal acts against the public order and the state, as well as those who have been taken into custody for their own protection."

Tonight's announcement was the first official revelation of the number of MPs held and that some of them had been prosecuted.—Agence France-Presse, Reuters and AP.

Police seize documents of anti-apartheid prosecutor

Pretoria, Sept 18.—Security police seized documents and personal items from the apartment of a public prosecutor who dramatically walked out of court saying he was sick of enforcing apartheid, the prosecutor says.

Mr Adam Klein, aged 24, stormed out of court three weeks ago after telling a magistrate that he could no longer stand by and watch the country's legal system be used to "serve apartheid".

Mr Klein, who was serving as a prosecutor while finishing his legal studies, also told the magistrate that he had witnessed thousands of irregularities in the disposition of cases against blacks including, he alleged, faulty translations of the blacks' testimony. Many blacks do not speak English or Afrikaans, the two official languages.

In an interview published in the Rand Daily Mail today, Mr Klein said: "I was prepared in good faith to cooperate fully with the Attorney-General of the Transvaal and the Commissioner of Police in the process of working on my report (on irregularities) when the security police called on me."

Mr Klein added: "What shocks me even more is that the security police, even though they only had a warrant to search my flat for court documents, also took away personal letters that had nothing whatsoever to do with the report."

The case has attracted wide interest after its first publication in a Sunday newspaper.

Journalists detained: A Cape Town journalist and a member of the students representative council at the university here may be charged with contravening official secrets laws.

Mr Richard Wickstead and Mr Frans Kruger were detained for questioning by police on Tuesday.

Mr Wickstead said he thought current police inquiries involving him might be linked with an article he wrote last month for the Cape Times.

A black journalist of the South African magazine Drum was detained by police in the South African Bastards of Transkei.

The Transvaal and Mr Motjwadi was arrested when he left the Umata offices of the Sunday Post, reliable sources said.

—Agence France-Presse.

Five killed in attack from sea on south Lebanon

Beirut, Sept 18.—Israeli troops launched a pre-dawn attack from the sea today on Palestinian guerrilla positions in and around the south Lebanese port city of Tyre, killing at least five people and wounding 14 others. Several houses were blown up.

The raid was preceded by heavy artillery shelling of the area by Israeli-backed Christian militias in the border enclave north of Israel. The militias are commanded by Major Saïd Haddad, a former Lebanese army officer.

A communiqué from the Palestine Liberation Organization said the guerrillas "thwarted the attack and prevented the Israelis from landing."

An Israeli military communiqué said the troops went ashore. The attack was aimed at disrupting guerrilla operations against Israel.

It was the first Israeli attack on Palestinian strongholds in Lebanon since the big operation against the Palestinian-held Beirut, Castel and Arzoun, just north of the Israeli border, on August 19. At least 30 guerrillas and three Israeli soldiers were killed in that attack.

The area has been tense since the PLO leader, Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, has been expecting a "major Israeli invasion of south Lebanon" before the United States' presidential elections.

An Israeli spokesman said troops established control over buildings in and around Tyre, meeting only light and uncoordinated resistance from the guerrillas.

Baathis killed: A member of pro-Iraqi Baath party and a companion were killed today in an ambush in the North Lebanese city of Tripoli.

Meanwhile, in Beirut, several people were injured this afternoon when a bomb planted in a car in the west of the city exploded, informed sources said.

Mr Reagan's staff still seeking strategy to regain lost ground

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Sept 18

The Reagan-Bush campaign is grappling with a number of serious tactical problems. According to some senior members of the campaign, the lack of strategy by this time means, of course, that their superiors, Mr Edward Meese and Mr William Casey, do not see things the way they do.

The main immediate tactical question that ought to be resolved by Sunday night is whether Mr Reagan should agree to hold a debate with President Carter, without Mr John Anderson. On Sunday night Mr Reagan and Mr Anderson are due to debate in Baltimore. The President has said that he will not take part. Having wrung all the advantage possible out of the sight of the commander in chief, running away, should Mr Reagan then accept his long-standing proposal for a one-to-one debate?

The more nervous of his supporters fear that he would make some serious mistakes. The optimists hope that Mr Carter would make the mistake. The cautious say that it all depends on the polls: If Mr Carter is ahead next week, after Sunday's debate, Mr Reagan will have to agree to a debate with the President.

This is where tactics become high strategy. Mr Reagan's staff feels that it would be disastrous if Mr Carter established a permanent lead in the polls. At present the two men are running neck and neck, which is bad enough for the challenger as incumbent presidents tend to gain support in the last days of a campaign. If Mr Carter establishes a firm lead now it will be very difficult to catch up.

The problem Mr Reagan faces is how to persuade those who are not strongly committed to

him that he ought to be President. Mr Reagan's staff do not have to persuade anyone of the inadequacies of Mr Carter's presidency. But they feel that the campaign needs a new strategy—that he is a warm, determined, clear-sighted leader—is not enough. They have to give people positive reasons for voting for him.

The campaign started badly, with Mr Reagan making some terrible mistakes over China for instance. Then his staff devised the strategy of "an issue a week". The candidate would make a strong speech on defence, or foreign affairs or the economy—at the beginning of the week, and hammer away at it for the next few days.

example of that was Reagan's attack on the administration's decision to do some "information on stealth" bomber.

Mr Reagan announced disclosure of vehement in the middle of a speech economics. The cry was up on Capitol Hill and enough "I drew blood" issue was carried a bit far but it did give Mr Reagan the way to keep the House nervous. However, tactics, not strategy.

Two can play at that and an incumbent President generally bullies a challenger out of more easily his challenger.

Mr John Sears, who was Reagan's campaign top until February, when he replaced by Mr Fawcett, today's Washington Post says: "In the present race, all agree that Carter is in the because of his handling of the economy. But the real test is whether Reagan can get so and so in the person that people will vote for because of it."

"So far, he has not hit his early mistakes, the Carter campaign says. Mr Carter, on the other hand, looks like a disaster from the economic issue."

He goes on: "Right now, the Reagan campaign has the idea that they must roll another four years with him as their President, but he is not giving them enough. There is still time for him to do so, but with only six weeks left in the campaign, he is not to do so."

Daughter considers running Miss Maureen Reagan, age 22, daughter of Mr Reagan, says she will consider standing for the Senate—UPI.

US Elections

The trouble was that Mr Carter could see him coming. The President's staff got in some hard words before his campaign managers decided to revert to the standard campaign stump speech. The press would pore through the advance texts, and would discover an unexpected nugget in the midst of it. Then Mr Reagan's supporters up and down the land would be brought in to hammer away at the theme sprung on an unsuspecting President and, as one of them happily put it, draw blood by the end of the week. A good

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Havana expels two hijack suspects to US

Washington, Sept 18.—An American aircraft left here today for Havana to bring back two Cubans accused of hijacking an airliner to the island yesterday, a Federal Aeronautics Administration spokesman said.

The United States acted soon after Havana announced that it was expelling the men. It was the first time that either country had handed over a hijacking suspect and the action was viewed by diplomats in Havana as a sign of détente.

A Federal Bureau of Investigation spokesman said the two men being returned to the United States would immediately face charges of piracy.

—Agence France-Presse.

Buoyant black market draws Thais to border riches

From Neil Kelly
Bangkok, Sept 18

Illegal sales of goods amounting to about £1m a day, on the Thai-Kampuchean border, are causing more casualties than military activities in the same area, an official of the International Committee of the Red Cross said today.

Most patients in the Red Cross hospital at the Nong Chan border encampment are victims of disputes among Thai traders and Kampucheans. Most injuries were caused by grenades and small arms fire.

The trade has increased enormously since the Thai Army handed over control to the customs and district officials. Up to 10,000 Thai traders are engaged in such sales which officials say range from about £90 a day to £7,000.

In the past two months the police have arrested about 5,000 of the traders and fined them a total of £500,000. They can afford to pay as much as more than £1,000 a day for big operators. Small traders would be lucky to earn £2 a day in local jobs.

The authorities admit that the huge trade is out of control and say the problem is that traders smuggle goods by the thousands. They also admit that many policemen exact bribes from traders before letting them pass checkpoints on roads leading to the border.

Several thousand of the dealers have come from other districts including the far south and north-west of Thailand to join in the lucrative trade. They have brought families and household goods with them and

new life in appalling conditions in big houses which have been divided into cubicles.

Cigarettes, medicines, clothes make up the bulk of goods traded, as do the Kampuchean. The big traders spend by the case and afterwards they are on sale Phnom Penh, Battambang and other Kampuchean towns.

Some traders are now buying watches, radios, cassette tapes, and other goods from the border. They have brought families and household goods with them and

Israel-Egypt talks may resume this month

From David Cross
Washington, Sept 18

It was "very possible preliminary talks in Egypt, Israel and the States about the resumption of the West Bank and Gaza negotiations would be before the end of the month," said the Foreign Minister, said.

Mr Shamir, who met President Carter at the White House, said a press conference here that a date resumption of the so-called "peace talks" had been decided. However, there were meetings in the United States or in the Middle East next few weeks, he said.

First meeting was likely place in Washington.

Commenting on his talk with President Carter, Mr Shamir said that many problem relations between the States and Israel remain, he said, "generally we give answers to our questions, but we are not sure that the American military aid to during the coming year."

Mr Shamir, who was away to New York for the signing of the United States General Assembly, was optimistic about autonomous talks.

Mr Shamir said that the resumption of the talks would create a good atmosphere for the negotiations.

Asked about the UN report that the Israeli Government had agreed to have a meeting with the PLO, Mr Shamir said the Israeli Government had no plan to approve any more settlement in the Occupied Territories.

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Ski report



There's a long long trail a-binding

What is the connexion between Thunder, Sheer Bliss, Little Corkscrew, Mainline, Fifth Avenue, Bear Bottom, Copper Cut-off, Hole in the Wall, and Sinner? They are pistes, or, as they say in America, trails.

Do not be misled by the term trail. There are not the narrow paths or tree-lined gulleys the name suggests to European ears. They are immaculately groomed runs which simply ask to be skied as exuberantly as they are named.

Hospitality and friendliness are true American virtues. Anyone familiar with the short-tempered elbowing and pushing in Alpine queues will be as charmed as I was by the orderly politeness of lift lines across the Atlantic. Even small boys take their turn.

Lift lines had another unsuspected, and unexpected, attraction which simultaneously demonstrates American sociability and efficiency. "Single" you cry, taking an arm in the air as you push into the back of a queue. "Here comes the reply, and another arm is raised at the brightly clad figures who murmur the guide as they make a pair for the chairlift with the single ahead. Thus I made the acquaintance of a shy young lawyer from Hawaii, but glad to do better next time indeed. Last spring I had a wheelchair skiing trip round Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Aspen, Colorado, Heavenly Valley in the Nevada-California area, and Snow Valley which shares its Heavenly reputation with the latter. It was a wheelchairing press trip, organised by Ingham Travel where I was. And even though we were late in the season for the perfect winter snow, that American skier's pace about the skiing was so good that I am determined to repeat the itinerary this season, but spread over three weeks instead of 10 days.

Jackson Hole is a cowboy town, say the brochures, and they are not joking. Arches of elk antlers punctuate the view of streets which only need a few television aerials torn down to make a perfect scene for a turn of the century western. Everyone wears stetsons and only the horses are missing. Call for three fingers of Red Bull in the famous Cowboy Bar, and will get it. Repeat the indiscretion, and there is a hangover to match the genuine taste of the saloon.

But Jackson (Americans leave the ends of place names the way they do with freedom) is about skiing, and that takes place a few miles away at Teton Village, a purpose-built resort at the foot of Rendezvous Mountain. The tram, cable car to you, rises over 4,000 feet from the village centre to the summit of Rendezvous and the 12-minute ride can be booked. There is no easy way down. All the runs starting at the top of the tram are black on the map, though any man with reasonably good control will manage them safely, if not stylishly.

The locals ski aggressively and well, a tribute to the ski school, and there is an adequate selection of easy and slightly more difficult runs. Powder hounds rate the resort highly.

Spirited bopping is to be had in both Teton Village and Jackson Hole where the Western Swing, a loping version of 30s ballroom live is much performed in cowboy boots.

By contrast, Aspen's discos, glitter and funk with the latest hits and hardcores, and there are more "warm turns" (the disparaging description of cecidology) seen on its slopes. All the obvious opportunities for turning a Victorian mining town into a picturesque ski resort for the fashionably well-heeled have been exploited and the results are not unimpressive. At night the town stays open late, its bars and restaurants satisfying well-

earned appetites with food and drink of every hue and most nationalities.

Aspen mountain's ski school takes intermediate and advanced skiers only. Its steep runs are heady stuff for the expert or brave. Good signposts and the ski hosts who lurk at potentially dangerous piste junctions really do help visitors to make the most of the skiing. These official guides patrol the pistes at Aspen and all the other resorts.

Snowmass, Buttermilk and Aspen Highlands are the sister areas linked to Aspen by a shuttlebus service that is free, runs efficiently to a timetable, and has an all-night service. Prices in these resorts are lower than in Aspen, which is good value for British skiers though regarded as expensive by Americans. Buttermilk is the best place for beginners and Snowmass has the most flattering, ego-building intermediate skiing of any resort I have visited.

Visiting Heavenly Valley involves culture-shock of a curious kind. There is this beautiful lake backed by beautiful mountains, and there are the usual beautiful people skiing them. Then there is the town of South Lake Tahoe with its ski-scraper casinos, and its acres of green baize and dollar slots, and some very beautiful people indeed. In between there are chalets, hotels, motels, supermarkets, drive-in cheerful fast food places.

The skiing is just as varied with some particularly scenic runs through trees, and a mogul slope called Gumbarel that I cannot wait to confront again.

Quail Valley, about an hour and a half's drive round the lakeside from Heavenly, and site of the 1950 Winter Olympics, has steep open runs which somehow makes it a little easier to keep facing downhill, and a good selection of the well-groomed intermediate pistes in which American resorts seem to specialise.

General points to make about all the resorts are:

- Chaperons, the favoured form of uphill transport, are bitterly cold, so warm clothing, especially for the mothers, is essential.
- Lifts, and equipment prices are reasonable, often cheap by European standards, and the quality is excellent.
- Lift pass prices are the equivalent of comparable European resorts.
- Food and drink, up and down the mountains, are noticeably cheaper, noticeably faster, and generally served with a smile.
- Nightlife — discos, bars with bands, casinos, etc. — generally charge no entrance fee and drinks cost approximately English pub prices.

Ingham Travel offer one week holidays with necessary car hire and flights from £467 per person sharing a double room with private bathroom, on a bed and breakfast basis. Two weeks in a self-catering studio costs from £622 each for two people sharing. At Jackson Hole two weeks at the Skyrunner Inn, cost from £533 for a couple, sharing a room. Flights are by Braniff International from Gatwick to Denver, Ingham Travel, 229 Putney Bridge Road, London SW15 2PL (telephone 01-738 6145).

Thomson Holidays have a ski-where-you-please flexible deal flying Lakar Airways to Los Angeles, an Avis car, and open-ended vouchers for six nights hotel accommodation in Best Western Hotels. For four people sharing two rooms a two week holiday costs from £214 each. The driving distance from Los Angeles to Lake Tahoe is about 200 miles, from Los Angeles to Aspen is 170 miles, and to Snowmass is 160 miles. Thomson Holidays, 202-204 Finchley Road, London NW2 6XB (telephone 01-431 6318).

Ski Supertravel have scheduled a two week, two centre powder skiing trip to Snowbird and Aspen in the last week of January and the first week of February. The party is limited to 25 skiers, the accommodation is self-catering, and the price, including lift passes, is £720 per person. This party should be booked by November 30 and may still be cancelled if too few applicants apply. Ski Supertravel, 22 Hans Place, London SW1X 0EP (telephone 01-584 5060).

Shona Crawford Poole

A touch of the slapdash in the Dolomites

There comes a time in every skier's life when he has to accept that he is not going to get any better. It is impossible to pinpoint exactly when this occurs, but it is likely to be some years after he has acknowledged that he will not be chosen to play cricket for his county but will before he has abandoned hopes of bringing his golf handicap down to single figures.

Nowadays, realization of his limitations may be delayed by the continuing improvement in ski equipment which each year it seems makes it easier to perform difficult manoeuvres with correspondingly less effort. But eventually, being muscles and lack of fitness can no longer be ignored. It is then that the challenge of the "black" piste or the deep, untracked snow through the woods becomes less attractive than a confidence-building run down an open, sunlit slope with no particular hazards and, for preference, a place of refreshment at its foot.

It was thus with considerable trepidation that, one morning last February, I

found myself standing at the top of what seemed to me the steepest, loofest and narrowest gully I had encountered in more than 20 years. Admittedly I had skied it three or four days earlier, but that was in the afternoon, in a large party, after a good lunch and after the sun had had time to soften the snow.

On this occasion it was still early morning, the slope glistening with ice and snow, and the prospect of a fall was not a pleasant one. I would almost certainly slide out of control for several hundred yards, with every prospect of colliding head-first with a rock. I was with only one companion, who, although a better skier than me, was not exactly brimming with confidence. Since the only alternative was to trudge half a mile back to the top of the gully, we eventually decided to slide down with down the more precipitous stretches, but it was far more of an ordeal than a pleasure.

I have related this in order to make the point that, despite the high modern, far from the well-marked and regularly patrolled pistes, can be a more formidable experience than is generally recognized. That is not being alarmist; of course the sport itself carries an element of risk, but the incidence of serious injury is tiny in relation to the millions of participants.

The enormous growth in its popularity has necessitated a comparable huge expansion of facilities. New lifts now transport skiers to regions formerly visited only by occasional groups of

mountaineers. The benefits are partly greater, but so too are the risks. Slopes are generally steeper and weather conditions more treacherous, there are fewer safeguards and a much greater chance of encountering large stretches of ice.

On this particular morning I booked that particular gully was effectively not skiable. It was not a recognized piste, it may have been technically impossible to declare it closed. But I think a stronger warning should have been posted about the nature of the gully, which, although generally regarded as being safe, was not marked or patrolled, and that from now on they were on their own.

The place I am writing of lies above the Passo Forno in the Italian Dolomites. The lack of an adequate warning notice, I fear, simply served to confirm the view, held by earlier visitors that the Italians tend to take a somewhat slapdash attitude to such matters. It must also be said that the signposting on many trails and pistes is quite inadequate. All too often a run, which halfway down is marked as being closed, is found to be open in different directions and with no indication whatsoever which leads where.

That said, however, there is no doubt that Italy has a great deal to be said in its favour. One of the main reasons for its growing popularity with British skiers

Girl

For the fashion-conscious. Skimmer action polyester-filled all in one, contrasting flash appliqued back. £139.00 shown here with Licoine polyamide sunrise appliqued polyester-filled anorak £59.50, both from Pindisports. Rodeo après ski boots £14.99 from C&A

Boy

The Mountain Lid pure wool bobble hat £9.90, Turbofan goggles by Smith £35.00, Cloudburst Tahoe down-filled polyamide anorak £59.00, Trafoi racing pants by Sking £39.00, Hanson Stiletto ski boots £159.00, Sun Valley poles £9.50, all from Alpine Sports.

Girl

HCC silky polyamide Marsal suit (anorak and matching salopette) polyester-filled £199.00 (matching Garsal gaiters £19.50, not shown), from Alpine Sports. Technica moon boots £24.95 from Pindisports. Sunglasses, model's own.

Boy

Polyamide anorak and matching salopette £79.00 both polyester-filled, moon boots £12.99, leather glove £9.99, all from C&A. Reflecting sunglasses, model's own.

Branches

C & A—Mans suits at West End branches only. C&A only from selected branches throughout the country.

Alpine Sports—Knightsbridge, Holborn, Kensington High St, Brighton, Blues of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Centre Sports, Lead Pindisports—Skinner suit Holborn and Knightsbridge only. Alp. Easting—Groydon, Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Reading. Photographs by Eric Howard.

High Life below cost

Enterprise Sports

Ski Sale

Scotland, still a long way to go

My first experience of skiing in Scotland was at Achnacraig some 15 years ago. At that time Scottish skiing was more or less in its infancy: lifts were crowded and runs very limited in length and variety. However, it was confidently predicted that in years to come the Highlands would rival the Alps as a winter attraction for us poor snowless southerners.

But it has not happened that way. The Friday night traffic from King's Cross and Euston are not crowded with groups of bronzed, tanned men and women in anoraks and trouser suits. A watcher by the side of the M1 would, I suspect, have to wait a long time to spot a car with a motorist adorned with skis, heading northwards.

One reason is simply that, for most of us, Scotland is too far away. The nearest skiing centre is some 500 miles from London, which means that the time and expense involved are not significantly less than would be incurred in travelling to the more accessible Alpine resorts.

Another is that the weather and snow conditions are distinctly less reliable than in the Alps. Whereas the inhabitants of Edinburgh and Glasgow can read the latest local weather forecasts and snow reports and, if prospects seem favourable, jump into their cars at breakfast time and be skiing by mid-morning, those who live further away are seldom in a position to make time at such short notice.

None the less, the week-end trip remains a possibility. Last winter I accepted an invitation to join a group organised by a small firm called Startrak Travel. The long rail journey to Glasgow passed pleasantly enough but, although we left London at lunchtime on Friday, it was late at night by the time we reached our hotel.

Next morning a 20 mile bus journey took us to Glenelg, on the main road between Perth and Aberdeen. I was pleased to discover an unexpected variety of lifts and pistes but far from enchanted by the weather, which was grey, wet and windy, and by the snow conditions which were frankly appalling—a mixture of ice, rock and heather.

While I am prepared to accept that we had chosen an unfortunate time and that conditions were at their worst, there were other causes for irritation and depression. One was the quality of the hired boots and skis, which was far below an acceptable standard. Another was that the sole refuge from the wind and rain proved to be an overcrowded shack with a blaring jukebox and nothing more appetizing on the menu than Coca Cola and sausage rolls. Why is it that so often the British seem to go out of their way to make things as unappealing as possible?

I hesitated to discourage those younger, keener and less fastidious than myself from making a foray across the border. But I am sorry to confess that on the Saturday afternoon I preferred to watch the England-Scotland rugby international on television, and that by dusk on the Sunday I was heading thankfully towards the comfort of an Edinburgh hotel.

IV

January for the real bargain time

Most people who ski cannot really afford it, but they go anyway. This is understandable. What is odd is that more do not go in January, which is considerably cheaper than other times. January is called the low season and seems to be regarded as low in more senses than one. People imagine that because hotels and lifts are cheaper, there must be something wrong with it, or that nobody will be there, or only people even poorer than themselves.

Personally I seldom go at any other time. Of course I miss the jolly crowds of Christmas and New Year—and also the

the advantage for the dedicated skier that the slopes are usually just outside your door and there is seldom much queuing because lift capacity is related to the number of beds.

But some people are disappointed by the night life at these cheap and efficient places, much of the accommodation is self-catering flats whose occupants seldom venture out in the evening. So if special life is what you are after, consider cheerfully where instruction and rented equipment are less predictable but exist on a relatively cheap and the amusements are good.

Or try the traditional atmosphere of chalets, cowbells and mountain music in the smaller Austrian villages. The instruction will be more conservative than in France, but very sound, and serious, and the surroundings will be picturesque. Much the same applies to Switzerland, where you get a tradition, comfort, fine food, organisation, and, where there are specially good facilities for non-skiers, such as walks, skating rinks and mountain railways. (Some people have very good winter holidays without skis at all.)

And don't forget the possibility of cross-country skiing, a really growing branch of the sport which is easily self-taught and cheaper than rooming downhill. Some resorts, such as Seefeld, specialise in it.

Richard Dary

queuing for lifts, the overcrowded restaurants, the worn slopes and the big prices. I also miss the warmer sun of the early spring, which is more of a pity, but by that time Britain is beginning to be warmer, too.

January is not only the best time to go away from Britain but also a good time to be in the mountains. Apart from low prices you get little or no queuing, few madmen knocking you down on the lift, more untracked powder snow (colder and lighter than last in the year) and better service in the ski school, restaurants and hotels, where the full complement of personnel is serving a reduced number of guests.

So why do people stay away? School holidays are one reason. But partly it is a matter of fashion, partly ignorance, and partly because the days are shorter, are colder, though they are not that cold or short in most places, you can ski for about seven hours, which is enough, as far as the cold, well, I remember skiing without a shirt in Verbier in January, and one day when the snow was getting worn in Les Arcs we drove across to the other side of the valley and had a long drinker lunch, nearly naked, on the grass, eventually moving under a tree because the sun was so hot. Yes, that was January, at 6,000 feet. And last January in Courchevel, M. Benoit of the much recommended Hotel des Neiges, ran me several times to say he was serving lunch on the terrace.

Of course it is not always like that. Once in Sanicario it snowed right through a week, but after that there was the most dramatic skiing we have ever had. And sometimes it can be cold, and certainly choose a relatively sheltered resort for January and check that some sun does actually reach it, there are places that lie in permanent shadow until February.

A morning ride up a chairlift on a north slope for biting wind can take the fun out of things very quickly, especially if the lift breaks down. Closed cable cars or kindly rescue are a help. But with a little foresight and luck January can give you as good a time as any other month, and often better.

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R.D.

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The Times Special Reports.

All the subject matter
on all the subjects that matter.



THE ARTS

The advanced concepts of fairy-tale simplicity

Simon (A)

Warner West End

Xanadu (A)

Plaza 1

The Marriage of Maria Braun (AA)

Odeon, Kensington;
Screen on the Hill;
Cinecenta, Panton St.

The Third Generation

Electric Cinema Club
(from Sunday)

Hollywood—which in practical terms means the world audience—seems to be taking to fairy tales, of which films like *Being There* and *Simon* are apparently only harbingers. The Simon of the title (Alan Arkin) is simple as only a scientist and philosopher could be. He is also vain enough about his screwy experimental physiology to be readily taken in by a sinister scientific think-tank, the Institute for Advanced Concepts, who, under pretext of funding his work, use him as an experimental guinea pig.

After a period of several days in a sensory deprivation tank, he is cheerfully convinced of his role as the new space messiah, conceived by an electric toaster out of a flying saucer womb. His mission to save mankind from the threats of selfish drivers, television commercials and graceless male hair-styles is so fervent that he eludes all the efforts of the army and the Institute for Advanced Concepts to liquidate this threat to Civilization as We Know It.

This amiable fable and

comic gloss on Christian legend might seem at first glance a rather hazardous vehicle, but, allowing for a few rumbling hints it finally trundles along surprisingly briskly and amiably. It is the first directorial effort of Marshall Brickman, Woody Allen's co-writer on *Sleeper*, *Annie Hall* and *Murder on the Orient Express*. Notions like the flying saucer are reminiscent, but Brickman asserts his own comic style, and borrowings from Allen are offset by the very different, brasher comedy style of Alan Arkin.

Qualities that the film does share with the Allen comedies include a recognition that the writing of comedy, whether low or high-flying into absurdist fantasy, needs sacrifice no intelligence; and that comic characters should have the same consistency and depth as those of the drama. Even the crazy gang of the Institute led by the owlish Austin Pendleton, have their own validity as a character-ensemble. Arkin's adolescent girlfriend (Judy Graubart), who says "our space" for "outer space", and the exemplary, comedienne Madeline Kahn as the transparently fraudulent scientific siren set to entice and seduce Simon, are firm, deft sketches.

The fairy-tale quality rises to fine intentions like the wicked witch and the Church of the Holy Box, whose worshippers—comic parodies of the speaking books in Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*—praise the television set with anthems drawn from commercial jingles. *Xanadu* tries, with results that are crashingly disastrous, to take the musical into the realm of fairy tale. Olivia Newton-John, who in her own right and other circumstances is an endearing performer, is a Muse, the daughter of Zeus (who in this picture more or less rhymes with "muse," sayway), with an Ozzy accent, roller skates and a lurid electronic aura which also afflicts a good deal of the rest of the film. She is sent to inspire Gena Kelly and a romantic young man called Michael Beck to realize their

creativity. If, that is, you can call it creativity to open a rather common-looking night club (called Xanadu) where Big Band Jazz meets Rock. Muse and man inevitably fall in love; and Zeus-Zeus—with the unmistakable voice of Wilfred Hyde-White—relents to give them an Olympian second (which is man's eternity) together.

Everybody knows, and the presence of an aged Gene Kelly reminds us, that they don't make musicals like they did any more; but surely they do not have to make them quite as daft or unmusical as this one? Choreography, performance, filming and editing look like the work of people with not a note of music among them. It is relief when Kelly, a bit stately, given his age and girth, goes into his dance, and shows what musicality is; and when, too late, the last number achieves enough style and verve to look as if other hands had made it.

Rainer Werner Fassbinder's most recent films have seemed to forfeit his most engaging quality, the speed and compression and confidence of his narrative. Both *The Marriage of Maria Braun*—his 1979 Berlin Festival prize-winner and his biggest international success—to date—and *The Third Generation*, shown at Cannes last year, suffer from long-windedness. Perhaps it is the contagion of his recent work with television.

The Marriage of Maria Braun is unusual in the Fassbinder canon, since the script is not his own, though he is said to have worked on extensive revisions of the screenplay by Peter Mäthesheimer and Dea Fritsch. Whoever wrote it, it is characteristically ironic Fassbinder material. The story is of Maria Braun's frustrated marriage is the story of Germany. Her wedding with Hermann Braun takes place in an air raid over Berlin in the late days of the war; the honeymoon is on the ruins. In the immediate aftermath, she believes Hermann to be dead. When he returns to her, however, he is instantly whisked



Simon (Alan Arkin) emerges from sensory deprivation, studied by William Finley (left), Austin Pendleton and Jayant

away to prison for the murder of Maria's wartime American lover (which she actually committed herself). Maria's fortunes improve in the aftermath and Economic Miracle through an affair with a rich industrialist. Released from jail, Hermann vanishes again, in accordance with a lucrative agreement to leave Maria's full possession until his impending death. At last, with obstacles removed, the Brauns prepare to consummate their union and enjoy their legacies; but are finally and definitively frustrated by a fatal domestic gas explosion.

Leaving aside a degree of diffusion and excess weight, the film boasts a lot of the best Fassbinder qualities: the poker-faced irony, the garish, theatrical expressionism of the set-

ting, the flippant, political asides and the dry, stylized performances of his stock company, led by Hanna Schygulla, a beautiful parody of the superstar.

The Third Generation (Die dritte Generation), with all its own overblown, is one of Fassbinder's most interesting and most acid films. In Germany too, it has been one of the most excruciated, as the first German film to deal fictionally—and worse, comically—with terrorism. Fassbinder's grimly ironic sense of fun sees terrorism as an element in contemporary society as indispensable and as integral as industry and the police, and in fact linked with both.

Fassbinder chooses to call even this film "a fairy tale" of the sort that are used to

help children on their road to death. Fassbinder's third generation terrorists—who are actually to some extent based on real-life elements of the Baader-Meinhof story—are as idiotic let squabbling over their games, delighting in absurd disguise and assumed personal ties, fired by no sense of political, social or any other identifiable purpose other than a craving for action. Innocently, they are being manipulated by a big industrialist, who needs a bit of terrorism to cure the slump in anti-terrorist security devices, and by the police—led by a corrupt officer who sleeps with the terrorist wife of his own terrorist son.

The film bridges with this sort of incestuous relationship and a solemn absurdism, which

climaxes in the final scene, such members of the gang who have not fallen victim to their own deception and incompetence camp around a carnival costume, making fake after take of a tape statement by their severe Midway victim who is also their industrialist patron (Eddie Constantine).

The film would undoubtedly have benefited from more of the old, sharp Fassbinder story-telling. It is still an unmistakably personal film, in that case he's not only written and directed, but also did his own photography, with its mock-Gothic form, and title texts as chapter headings, drawn from graffiti—political or grossly sexual—from public lavatories.

David Robinson

OTHELLO

Donald Sinden's Othello is thrilling.

Ronald Eyre's superbly fucid, detailed, eloquent, and moving production.

In repertoire with Twelfth Night

Oklahoma!

Palace Theatre

Irving Wardle

Unhappy the land that needs heroes, Brecht said: to which one might add, Unhappy the theatre that needs unhappy musicals. Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!* was built for bad times. It cheered up the wartime Broadway public, it brightened up postwar austerity Britain, and now it comes roaring back again to hold the encircling gloom at bay for three hours. No doubt the management will be taking note of whether it goes down as well with Arab spectators as it did with Wednesday night's posse of rapturous old timers.

Oklahoma! occupies a totem position in stage history, as the work that opened up a new era in the musical theatre. Encountering it for the first time, I am left wondering in what benighted pit musicals were languishing before it came along. The one thing that cannot be claimed for it is that it synthesized all the elements along the lines of *Gypsy* and *Dolls* and *Pal Joey*.

It opens in opera fashion with a medley of the tunes to come; then we get the famous realist opening of Aunt Eller discovered at her butter

churn and Curly coming on with what Agnes de Mille's autobiography describes as "the closest thing to lieder our theatre has produced."

By which she means "Oh What a Beautiful Morning." Thereafter the story of Curly's *Green Grow the Lilacs* is retold in spicy Southern dialogue, dance, and in the twelve famous songs. But each of the production elements knows its place: there is a hit of a song, a dance, and then the plot moves on another notch. The idea that it was this show that first involved music in advancing the action is a myth. The other claim is that it developed one individual characters through the songs. There is more substance in that: particularly in "Pore Jud," one of the least familiar, in which the romantic young Curly drops in on his rival, and playfully tries to persuade the low-caste hired hand to commit suicide. That scene carries an extraordinary theatrical thrill, as you see the dramatic genius of John Diehl's Curly and briefly attracting Alfred Molina's Jud—so that the two enemies are temporarily brought into treacherous harmony.

However, Curly thereafter reverts to harmless fresh-faced stereotype, and Jud to outright villainy; both at the expense of the story. The action is set in Indian territory shortly before the outbreak of the Union and Jud carries the marks of the dispossessed—the best hired major, a piece that should hardly need to be conducted at all, especially when played as a dozen or so and already given a decisive foundation in a harpsichord continuo. If a conductor is engaged, then he really ought to justify his presence by encouraging a smoother blend and a more calculated style than Mr Elder achieved here. The effect was to underline all the symphony's faults of blocky construction, rhythmic squareness, and simplicity of texture while allowing its one great strength, the arresting boldness of many of its ideas, to seem merely an eccentricity.

LMP/Elder

Festival Hall

Paul Griffiths

At the beginning of this month Mark Elder acquired a second home. Besides being musical director of the English National Opera he is now also principal guest conductor of the London Mozart Players, and it was under his baton that they opened their thirty-second season on Wednesday. It was not a very auspicious debut.

The first work was C. P. E. Bach's third symphony in F

major, a piece that should hardly need to be conducted at all, especially when played as a dozen or so and already given a decisive foundation in a harpsichord continuo. If a conductor is engaged, then he really ought to justify his presence by encouraging a smoother blend and a more calculated style than Mr Elder achieved here. The effect was to underline all the symphony's faults of blocky construction, rhythmic squareness, and simplicity of texture while allowing its one great strength, the arresting boldness of many of its ideas, to seem merely an eccentricity.

dialogue at restaurant and pub tables, bearing little relation to character but setting the plot out at a galloping pace. The writer, Roy Clarke, with a fine record as creator of highly quirky individuals, will surely come into his own later on.

Much is promised from the horrendous Brewer family, parents of two daughters, a theatrical household seen pushing the ringletted charm of their offspring with just the right combination of exaggeration and plausibility.

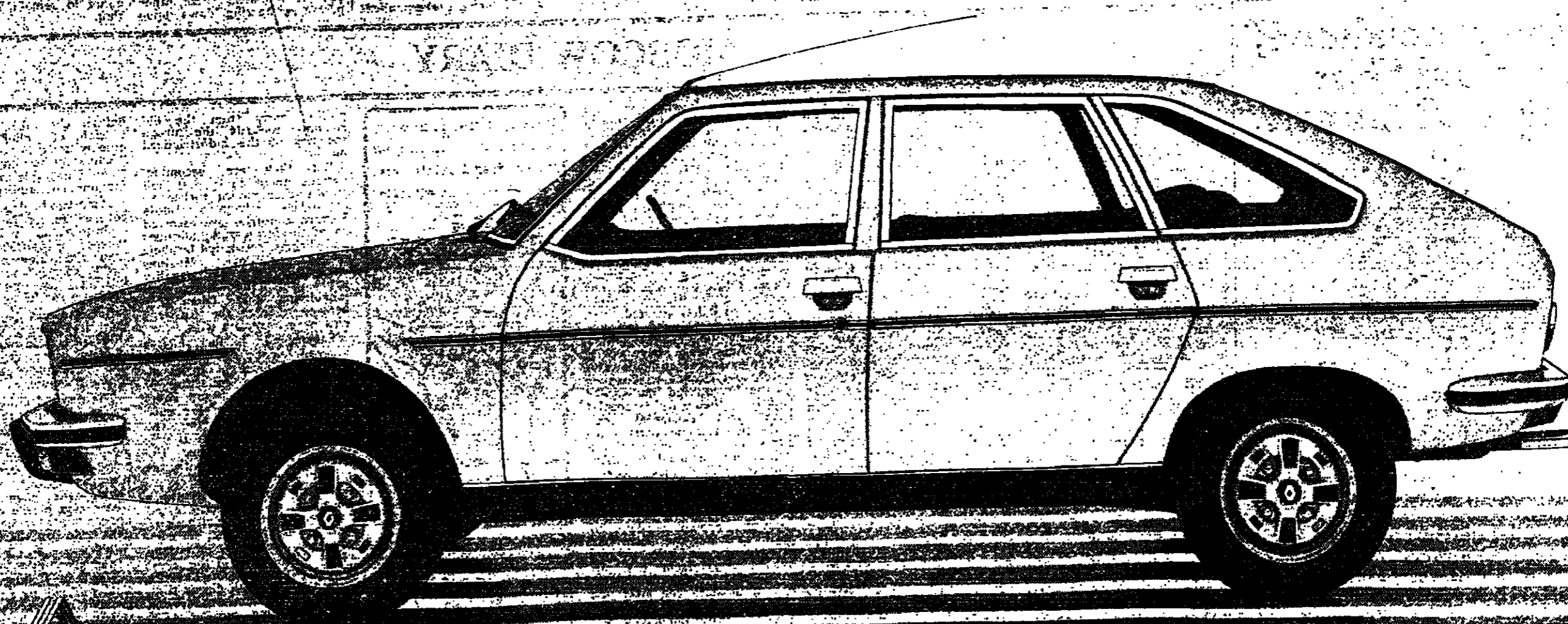
Flickers, however, is aiming high twice—not just to create a historical fiction of what it was like in the very early days of British film, but to do so in a style that uses many of those early cinema techniques. The framed captions, the piano accompaniment and the tinkling orchestra are easily and effectively done. The film's tone is more difficult. The Keystone-Cops episode in which police break up the illegal filming of a race meeting, and the Chaplinesque sequence where the hapless porter commandeers a railway porter's trolley, aim at a historical fiction of what it was like in the very early days of British film, but to do so in a style that uses many of those early cinema techniques. The framed captions, the piano accompaniment and the tinkling orchestra are easily and effectively done. The film's tone is more difficult. 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The Vienna conference this week pointed up yet again the oil producers' disagreements

Opec: an unworkable plan, a tarnished image

Vienna
The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries may well have over-reached itself. Saudi Arabia's last-minute concession on short-term pricing late on Wednesday night served to dispel the atmosphere of acrimony and discord which had prevailed for three days of fruitless discussion, but the truth is that the oil, finance and foreign ministers of the 13 member countries who met here have achieved little of what they set out to do.

It may be that the task they set themselves was unachievable. Elements of it, however, should have been within their grasp. If Opec truly wants to be more, as it constantly says it does, than a greedy cartel taking advantage of supply shortages to push up the price of oil then it must join the industrialized West in helping to ease the economic problems of the Third World.

Opec greatly desires to be regarded as a responsible voice within the world community. Its most powerful member, Saudi Arabia, which produces a third of Opec's oil and a tenth of non-communist consumption, has since the first price shocks of 1973 been acutely aware of the damage Opec can do to western economies and international stability.

At the same time it has wanted to obtain prices reflecting the fact that its oil will not last for ever and that when output begins to decline it will need a compensatory source of wealth.

Sheikh Yamani, the Saudi Arabian Oil Minister, saw the solution in plans drawn up since 1973 by a long-term strategy committee chaired by him with other delegates from Iran, Iraq, Algeria, Venezuela and Kuwait. The cornerstone of his plan, which was first presented to a full meeting of oil ministers in the Saudi Arabian mountain resort of Taif in May, was to control the oil market in such a way that prices would rise gradually to meet the cost of alternative sources of energy.



Mr Rene Ortis, of Ecuador (left), Secretary-General of Opec, with the chairman of this week's Vienna conference, Mr Mohammed Seddik Benyahia, the Algerian Foreign Minister.

This was to be done by agreement among producers to limit output to prevent the build-up of an oil surplus, which would drive prices down, coupled with a complex system of indexation that would push prices up in real terms. Draft proposals which were discussed here linked the oil price to a basket of currencies as a protection against any further devaluation of the dollar, to the rising cost of manufactured exports from the industrialized countries and the real growth of western economies.

Quantities of oil, however, were to be controlled in the West, the price of oil would rise in real terms.

The advantage to consuming countries, it was argued, was that there would be stability and the West would have time to prepare the necessary alternatives as oil production declined in the next century.

Details of the plan were to be

agreed here for presentation to a meeting of Opec heads of state in Baghdad in early November. In addition the oil, finance and foreign ministers were to work out a new aid package for the developing countries, whose oil import bill this year will grow by a crippling 3,500 million dollars. Baghdad was in effect to reveal Opec as a new force for international cooperation. A prestige occasion which would celebrate the 20th anniversary of the organization and which, in its own eyes, would be the perfect answer to what it saw as unjustified attacks on its principles and motives.

It is doubtful that the new pricing system would work, and even if it did, whether it would be of any real advantage to the West. Before 1973 economists believed that growing demand and the shortage of production capacity would double the real

price of oil by the year 2000. That has already happened.

Oil is being phased out for heating and electrical generation because it is uneconomical. At the same time the extraction of heavy oils and oil from tar sands is now on the verge of profitability. For these reasons—and unless there is another disruption to supplies such as that caused by the revolution in Iran—there is no reason why the price of oil should rise significantly for a very long time.

Another disruption is a real possibility, however. As long as the Middle East remains an area of tension there is a risk that war or revolution will interrupt oil supplies. Opec's plan provides little protection against such an event. It is a one-way bet. Prices could leap next year, and Opec would either wait for its indices to catch up or continue to raise prices from a new base.

After the Vienna meeting it is difficult to believe the Opec plan could work for any length of time. The discussion did little to highlight the cultural, economic and political differences that have always been a threat to Opec's unity. The Libyan and Algerian regimes could not accept the use of western indices of inflation to protect oil prices in real terms. They wanted to use faster rising indices.

Delegates from Iran and Iraq could hardly bear to be together in the same room. Even while the conference was taking place, Tehran radio was claiming that Iraqi troops had fired on President Khamenei's helicopter during a tour of the disputed border area. Iran's delegate, Mr Ali Akbar Moinefar, who had been replaced as Oil Minister before he arrived, appeared unable to agree on anything.

Opec therefore split into two factions, a majority of 10 and a minority of three. If the 10 were to go along with the scheme alone, the strains on unity would be enormous. But if, after two years of study and three days of intensive dis-

cussions, agreement could not be reached, what chance is there either of getting agreement at further meetings before Baghdad or of then running the scheme successfully? And if Opec cannot run its own house effectively, what force can it have in any discussions with the industrialized countries on help for the Third World?

Disagreements on aid have been almost as strong as those on long-term pricing. The latter proposed that at least 10 per cent of all revenue from oil price increases should be used to help the Third World. The latter have proposed that aid should be linked to oil price rises and that the latter should be linked to aid price rises of its manufactured exports. Venezuela and Algeria have proposed a \$2,000m bank. Saudi Arabia believes Opec is in danger of going too far too fast and wants the newly increased special fund to be made to work effectively by more grandiose plans.

The worst is that Opec has added its weight to the United Nations' plan for global negotiations next year on the problems of developing countries' negotiations which have achieved little in the past two years.

Before Opec could put a long-term price plan into effect it would have to re-examine its pricing structure. Had Saudi Arabia not increased its price by \$2 to \$30 to narrow the gap with the present ceiling of \$35, the disparity on prices would have been so great that Opec would have been doomed to failure.

As it is a semblance of unity and agreement may be prepared, but the reality is different. Before the Vienna meeting Opec's rhetoric, particularly its solidarity with the Third World, stood a chance of being believed. But now it is clear that the Opec leaders have done little to emerge to the issue it has long cultivated for responsibility.

Nicholas Hirst

Geoffrey Smith

The vital choice that faces Lord Thorneycroft



Lord Thorneycroft: contains much of his relief

Lord Thorneycroft's decision to stay on as Conservative party chairman has saved Mrs Thatcher from a predicament. There would have been no obvious, and possibly no acceptable, successor at this stage. Lord Thorneycroft was a party member of the Shadow Cabinet, but among his many gifts he has never numbered a patient appreciation of the local pillars of the party. He was not a particularly good constituency MP and he might well have been bored with those duties of a party chairman which are more mundane, but essential.

Mr Francis Pym demonstrated as Chief Whip his notable talent for managing people, but it is probably too soon to move him from the Ministry of Defence and he could not reasonably be asked to be both Secretary of State and party chairman. Mr Michael Heseltine would be ideally equipped to arouse the enthusiasm of the constituency associations though his appointment would require a Cabinet reshuffle, but he is not sufficiently close to Mrs Thatcher for her to be altogether happy about the solution that would best upon his head. Prime Ministers tend to like party chairmen who are secure, but not as popular as all that. It is not forgotten that Mr Macmillan moved Lord Hailsham from the chairman's election immediately after the 1959 election triumph.

Mr Peter Walker has many of the required qualities, except that he would stand still less chance of establishing a partnership of happy confidence with Mrs Thatcher. And no chairman can be successful unless he has that confidence. Lady Young, the Minister of State for Education, was a successful deputy chairperson until the election and is on friendly personal terms with Mrs Thatcher, but it would be befitting as wise policy to have a woman both as Prime Minister and party chairman.

Lord Thorneycroft will continue until general approval, and quite a few signs of it. But it would be a mistake to suppose that his decision removes the need for the Prime Minister to think any more about the party's leadership. The present arrangements make the least of Lord Thorneycroft's greatest strength and the most of his greatest weakness.

He has altogether been remarkably successful. It is not uncommon to hear senior Conservatives describe him as the best chairman since the glorious days of Lord Woolton, though I would have thought it difficult to measure his contribution against the record of achievement of Lord Hailsham, the great bell-ringer, who did so much to restore the party's spirits after the Suez debacle. But Lord Thorneycroft has not performed all the tasks of a chairman equally well.

He has been most valuable in the role of a wise, trusted, experienced counsellor in the inner deliberations of the party. He was a dominating figure in the Shadow Cabinet before the election. He has been a critical part in the campaign itself when his sense of strategy told him that this was an election which the Conservatives would win provided that they kept their heads and their feet steady. He has served in the Cabinets of four Prime Ministers, he brought a depth of political knowledge. As a man with his active political career behind him.

But this role of senior adviser was one which he was able to play more effectively before the election than he has since. That is partly because party opinion nearly always matters more to the leaders of a party in opposition than in office. Worried Cabinet ministers have often pressures bearing down upon

them as well. But more important explanation is that as it is that while Lord Thorneycroft was a party member of the Shadow Cabinet he is not in the Cabinet at all. It would no doubt be a personal sacrifice if he were to give up all his business interests as he would be doing if he were to join the Cabinet, but Mrs Thatcher should press him to do so.

There is a case for a party chairman serving in a Cabinet. Cabinet: busy, almost needed to be kept in touch with party opinion.

He has not been so impressed in the more mundane task of party administration, which does not seem to have kindled his interest to the same extent. The decision to wind up a community affairs department as a separate entity in the Office of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, bringing the research department into the Central Office, has aroused many misgivings.

Lord Thorneycroft is therefore the kind of chairman who needs a strong, politically knowledgeable managing director with a gift for administration. He is not alone in this. One of the reasons why Lord Thorneycroft's term of office from 1973 to 1979 was so successful was that his predecessor, Lord Poole, stayed on as deputy chairman. Lady Young filed that role for Lord Thorneycroft from 1977 until after the election, but there is no one of comparable political stature.

This is a gap that needs to be filled. If Lord Thorneycroft intends to stay on for as long as he says he will, he will have to choose between two choices. He could decide now that, provided his health permits, he will continue for the next election. He could also decide that the party organization benefits from his ability always assuming that this does not slip into inertia.

But if he feels that at the age of 71 such a decision would be too much of a risk, then the time to go would be at the year's party conference. This would leave sufficient time to ponder the difficult choice of a successor; it might fit well with a major Cabinet reshuffle, which would be appropriate by then; and it should give the new chairman just enough time to get to work in preparing for the next election.

The last time a sitting Conservative Government was re-elected was in 1959; and the steering committee of half a dozen senior ministers, headed by Mr Macmillan's chairmanship, planned party strategy and prepared the manifesto, held its first meeting in December, 1957 nearly two years beforehand. The party conference will be nearly two years before the next party conference for the election, October, 1983.

But the worst of all would be for the party would be if Lord Thorneycroft's term were to drag on with no definite sure whether or not he was going to remain for the election.

That Camp David framework looks fragile

This is the last of five articles on the spirit of Camp David by Richard Owen, of The Times, who recently returned from a tour of the Middle East.

The Middle East is waiting. It is waiting for the presidential election in America in November. It is waiting for the general election in Israel, due to be held in November next year, but likely to take place before the parties in the Spring. It is waiting for the Arab leaders to state their position at their summit meeting, to be held in Amman shortly after the American election. It is waiting for the Nine states of the EEC to state their position, following the fact-finding mission to the Middle East this summer led by the chairman of the Council of Ministers, Mr Gaston Thon.

Throughout the Middle East there is a sense that the period which lies ahead will be the most critical for the future of the region since the visit to Jerusalem by President Sadat of Egypt in 1977. Two years ago, almost to the day, Mr Sadat, Mr Begin and President Carter signed the "framework for peace" they had hammered out at Camp David, and invited other parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, to adhere to it. Two years later, no "other parties" have joined in.

"Moderate" Arab nations such as Jordan and Saudi Arabia have remained aloof and suspicious. Above all, the Palestinians, whose tragedy lies at the heart of the conflict, regard the Israeli-Egyptian concept of "autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza" as a betrayal of their desire for a homeland, rather than a first step toward it.

Somewhere along the line, things have gone astray. Partly, the loss of impetus in the attribution to the personalities of the two national leaders involved: Mr Sadat and Mr Begin, both showed courage and imagination in coming to terms at all. But the imbalance has faded, and there is little meeting of minds between the public smiles and mutual griping of the chieftains.

This summer, with the Pal-

estian autonomy talks once more in abeyance the two men took to writing each other long, reflective letters. President Sadat, pondering matters in his retreat on Mount Sinai, (handed back by the Israelis under the peace treaty) considered the ironies of history. Since the story of the "Israelis" had "begun in the land of Egypt", he wrote to Mr Begin, it was fitting that "by the will of God Almighty, the story should find its completion in Egypt also". This marked a concession to the Israeli view that there is a link between the Israelites of the Bible and the modern inhabitants of the former Palestine, something most Arabs have always denied.

Mr Begin missing the point wrote back rather tartly noting that the "history of the people of Israel did not begin in Egypt but in Canaan, to whose Abraham the Patriarch had made his way from ancient Mesopotamia. In case Mr Sadat, sitting on Mount Sinai, had failed to get the message, Mr Begin quoted from Genesis Chapter Twelve, Verse Seven: "And the Lord appeared unto Abraham, and said: unto thy feet will I give this land".

Mr Begin's response was a very delicate one, trying to reconcile often irate motorists with the demands of the law, has left him cheerful and unbowed, despite some unpleasantities along the way.

In his early years he was actually punched between the eyes by a motorist who had apparently received a parking ticket from him and was determined to exact revenge. He

Scriptural niceties apart, many of the obstacles which have arisen since Camp David do in fact derive from Mr Begin's vision of biblical destiny. This includes the building of Jewish settlements in what the Israeli leader calls "Judea and Samaria". The last straw for Mr Sadat was the passing into law of a Knesset Bill making Jerusalem the "united and indivisible capital of Israel". The Begin Government, according to Cairo, is putting Camp David at risk by altering the very substance of the talks.

Some Egyptian officials suggest that the Israeli leader is out to gain as much as he can for "bilateral Israel" before his shaky right-wing coalition comes down to an inevitable defeat in the general election. This line of thought has a mirror image in Israel, to the effect that it is not Mr Begin who is undermining Camp David but Mr Sadat, who is deliberately overreacting to Israeli moves. In the view, it is to regain the third of Sinai not already handed back, before scuppering the peace process altogether and rejoining the Arab family of nations.

What, such arguments ignore is the fact that both Israel and

Egypt have an overwhelming vested interest in the continuation of Camp David. It is entirely possible that the two countries will still further into mutual suspicion and positions of bad faith, at least during the present period of waiting and uncertainty. But a web of commercial interests, diplomatic ties and private exchanges is being woven which it would be both difficult and inconvenient to unravel.

Israeli diplomats complain that the Egyptians are dragging their feet over bilateral trade and tourism. But, on the other hand, they are struck by the fact that the Egyptians, perhaps alone among Arab nations, have come to terms with the fact that there is an Israeli nation in the Middle East, a nation which wants a quiet life and fears extinction. Mossa Arab States: after all, even Jordan and Lebanon, continue to live in a dream world in which the state containing Israel on the map is still marked "Palestina".

What the name on the map stands for, of course, is a genuine Arab desire to see justice done over the question of the four and a half million

Palestinians, some of whom are on the West Bank, some of whom are dispersed. Much will hinge in the next few months, on whether the Arab countries can capitalize on world opinion, or whether the Soviet Union, while the Soviet Union hovers on the sidelines, is increasingly confident mood.

The triplicate summit, due to be held in America after the election may well produce little more than a general statement of intent to "continue Camp David. But in a full like the present one, agreement to keep up the momentum is all that is needed, at least in the absence of any visible alternative to the Camp David framework. The role of taking things beyond that framework could perhaps be played by the European powers, who in their Venice Declaration in June suggested that the "PLO" might be admitted to the United Nations at some point provided Israel's security is guaranteed. Some indication of precisely what the much-touted "European initiative" might involve, could emerge when Mr Gaston Thon addresses the United Nations General Assembly on behalf of the EEC member states next week.

As for the race for the

A pioneer looks back on 20 tricky years

Tom Sherry is one of London's best known traffic wardens. He joined the service just after it started 20 years ago and has served as long as anyone: this year he became the first—and so far only—warden to be awarded the British Empire Medal.

His two decades on a very delicate task, trying to reconcile often irate motorists with the demands of the law, has left him cheerful and unbowed, despite some unpleasantities along the way.

In his early years he was

found out Mr Sherry's name and where he was patrolling and lay in wait. Mr Sherry saw the car and innocently suggested to the driver that he move round the corner where parking was unrestricted. The next thing he knew was his name being called and he turned round to receive a fist in his face.

The assailant was, however, foolish enough to make the assault directly outside a building which the warden and police used for tea (officially WC) breaks. He was immediately apprehended by two burly men of the law and the sequel was a heavy fine.

Mr Sherry stresses that such incidents are untypical.

He became a warden in November 1960 after several other careers: he had been a merchant seaman, run his own business and spent nine years as a London bus conductor. He qualified to drive buses but was told it was more difficult finding suitable people for the back of the vehicle than the front.

"I never seemed to think I had the right personality for dealing with the public," he recalls, a quality that was most certainly needed when he helped to pioneer the London traffic warden service in face of considerable scepticism and some outright hostility.

"At first," he says, "everybody thought the wardens were a temporary thing and would

probably fade out after three months. There were compensations. One day I stopped in Soho, pulled out my notebook to take details of an illegally parked car and became aware that a small light was being lowered in his direction.

Looking up he saw that it was a traffic light of red, orange and seemed to come from an upstairs window. Then a woman's voice said: "Leave the car alone, ducks. I'm on the third floor, so why don't you come up?"

He admits that traffic enforcement in London is nothing like what it should be "simply because there are not enough of us.

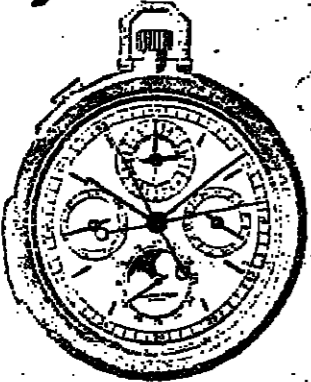
In fact, the number of wardens is declining weekly and only just over 1000 are left to cover the Metropolitan Police area out of an establishment of 1800. To do the job properly would need something like 2500.

Mr Sherry thinks that there is probably not enough money in the job.

Coming next February and his 69th birthday, however, he plans to call it a day so that he can spend more time visiting his family which now includes five grandchildren. After walking up to 18 miles a day in all weathers for so long, he is going to find it quite a change.

Peter Waymark
Motoring Correspondent

"Widely acclaimed," he conceded, "but scarcely well known."



He formed the words reluctantly, as though afraid "La Grande Complication" might lose some of its aura through the mere suggestion of being famous.

Whilst, as I pointed out, awareness of this extraordinary masterpiece of the watchmaker's art cannot dull its brilliance, its price of £40,000 means that few people will ever know the pleasure of owning one.

Everyone else, I reflected, must be content in the knowledge that such craftsmanship still exists today.

As if reassured, he handed the slender chronograph back to me, his fingers lingering for a moment on the finely edged gold case.

Audemars Piguet

Illustrated brochure and a list of appointed jewellers is available from Audemars Piguet, 73 Saffron Hill, London EC3N 8RS.

MOSCOW DIARY

Part of the attraction of Boney Ratt for Russia is that it dwells on a subject that is still politically sensitive in this country. Those dancing to the number's throbbing beat in hotel restaurants have the added frisson of mocking—and getting away with—a social and political taboo.

Down in Muslim Uzbekistan, in the main tourist hotel of the ancient city of Samarkand, they have found an exact equivalent. On Saturday night the local long-haired Uzbek youth, wearing tight jeans, high-heeled boots and sporting black market T-shirts emblazoned with pictures of Elvis, twist and gyrate in wild abandon as the band belts out *forissimo* their favourite Russian number: *Ghen, Ghen, Ghenis Khan*.

The incongruity is scarcely believable. The very name of Samarkand conjures up the ancient caravans of the Silk Road, the dusty mosques in the furthest reaches of the old Arab empire, the proud capital of Tamerlane whose awesome power stirred the imagination of Marlowe's England.

Generations of old men in turbans and long striped robes told their grandchildren of the ravages of the Mongol invader and the desecration wrought by the cruel hordes of the mighty Khan. For 200 years the heirs of Ghenis Khan held even the Russians, today's rulers of Muslim Central Asia, in abject thrall. And last month Tass, echoing old Russian prejudices,

denounced Chinese hegemonists for trying to conquer the Ghenis Khan as a national hero of the oriental peoples. Yet here they were, the heirs of Tamerlane, drinking Soviet cognac, wearing the latest fashions obtained with black market roubles from plenipotenents of western tourists, throwing themselves about while the band, with drooping moustaches and garish shirts, reproduced the hit tunes of the German group, Ghenis Khan. What would the local party bosses make of it?

They would probably be perfectly happy. The crazes of modern youth might seem unseemly to their conservative minds but at least they are more acceptable than the current concerns of young people 200 miles to the south in neighbouring Afghanistan and Iran. The attractions of European culture are less threatening than Muslim fundamentalism.

Samarkand and Bukhara, hidden for years behind the barrier of deserts and mountains, are now the jewels of the tourist package tour. Samarkand, a thriving city of half a million people, a regional centre and market town, received 47,000 foreign tourists last year, and almost a million visitors if all Soviet tourists are included. The bearded and named old men who sit behind heaps of shawls and peppers in the state-controlled market in Bukhara are accustomed to the click of Japanese cameras:

they even ask where you are going to compare the number of nationalities they can spot in a day. (If you reply from England, the inevitable next question is, "Liverpool or Manchester United?") Bobby Charlton? It helps to have some football patter handy if you want to strike up an instant friendship and get 50 kopecks a kilo off your fingers. Samarkand has grown used to visitors in a way that towns three times the size in the depths of the Ukraine never will. And it has adapted. The blue-tiled shrines and mosques of Tamerlane and his grandson, Ung Beg, have been meticulously redecorated. The tiled and latticed windows of the newly restored madrasahs (Muslim theological schools) have been decorated with authentic Koranic texts, and fleets of cars and voluble guides are on hand to whisk tourists around these secular museums.

The barmen in the tourist hotels can offer, for hard currency, Scotch whisky and local wine and can even joke in Japanese. Little slaven-headed boys from the picturesque thatched mud houses of old Bukhara run after you shouting "German? French? Czech?" and impudently you for chewing gum as if they had been transported straight from the streets of Hamburg. It is all rather beautiful, impressive and peaceful. Afghanistan seems a long, long way away. Ironically, with the

"Frankly I find it hard to work up a sense of loss and outrage when I didn't know it existed."



chaos in Turkey and Iran, the Soviet Union now has a neat monopoly on Islamic monuments still safe for the western tourist's gaze.

But Islam, scorned by the aesthetic publications that fill the shelves of any bookshop, is increasingly making its presence felt. The younger generation, with its black, slicked-back hair, its tight, athletic, and supercilious, is now going the way Atatürk hoped his people would in Turkey,

pulling away from the old customs towards the urban societies of the industrialized north.

But they are becoming curious about their past and month after month turbaned dignitaries from the Middle East countries are seen around the working mosques and shrines, persuaded by their hosts that Soviet Muslims enjoy full rights and equality while reminding the local inhabitants that Islam has become a force the Russians now have to reckon with.

Samarkand in fact has a revered Islamic shrine nearby, the burial place of Imam al-Bukhari, whose collection of Muslim customs and ritual is considered one of the most important in Islam. The mosque near the gate is now under state protection. The courtyard is packed with the faithful every Friday.

The present Imam, Khudai, a hospitable man well accustomed to receiving foreign delegations, said the mosque cost his community several thousands of roubles. He said the finest bricks brought from Bukhara and decorated with glazed tiles, the astonishing sum of 4,000 roubles (£2,500) for a month's work.

On the final day the Imam put the cash on the table in front of him. "If you would you rather have the money, your name inscribed in Arabic over the door?" he asked. The

builder chose his time with a sigh of relief the Imam quickly took back the money. "You see," he told me proudly, "how I was able to save money for our community."

Samarkand has just discovered to its joy that archaeological evidence now takes it at least a year older than the commonly accepted 2,500 years, thus delightfully beating its ancient rival Bukhara as the oldest city.

But Bukhara boasts that its cotton, the white gold of Uzbekistan, is superior to any other city's; it is today's planned economy that is what counts.

The two old cities have come a long way since the day only as far back as 1920, when the ruling empire failed to have under state protection. The courtyard is packed with the faithful every Friday. The present Imam, Khudai, a hospitable man well accustomed to receiving foreign delegations, said the mosque cost his community several thousands of roubles. He said the finest bricks brought from Bukhara and decorated with glazed tiles, the astonishing sum of 4,000 roubles (£2,500) for a month's work.

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Michael Binn



hells have begun to ring out a few days after the attitude towards last agreement of British opinion to the European Community budget. In talks at official Brussels the French have that each time Community goes to a specific point, they are prepared for the case. It is shown that they are not prepared to give and in the Community not only give each side a little each time but would be prepared to give more to Britain to round that Britain would be a danger for the 1712n or so, and it is to be the so the suspicion has arisen France—and to a certain West Germany, which has sympathetic to the French ally is trying to claw back of the concessions made. In specifically, it appears that failed in May to extract a commitment from their on the level of best farm prices, the French are trying to obtain a percentage of the gain on the price increase. It is difficult over the agreement.

Each of this may well be true. French have always set out the maximum advantage from the negotiating process in Brussels. But it should not lead to the conclusion that the French are reacting to the May agreement and it should not be allowed to sour the atmosphere at today's meeting between Mrs. Thatcher and President Giscard d'Estaing. What is happening now in Brussels is the normal procedure of a summit agreement, the agreement of conditions, the agreement into Community agreements. It has already been done for one part of the May agreement, the financial mechanism which accounts for roughly one-third of Britain's refund. Now it is the turn of the other parts by which Community funds will come to Britain for spending in such areas as transport, telecommunications and housing. This is bound to be a sensitive matter, and the governments also have to try to coordinate many of them regard the May agreement as an unnecessary giveaway to Britain. But unless the French prove exceptionally obdurate it should prove possible to reach a satisfactory compromise.

Today's talks will give Mrs. Thatcher an opportunity to emphasize the importance she attaches to the agreement on Britain's contribution, and to its being carried out without difficulties. There is no reason to make a big issue of it at this stage. It will also be a chance to raise the broader issue of restructuring the Community.

During the which is by the in resources the proposition for the mission for keep with resources, of VAT limits will particularly increased allowed in since both take the limit on remained be found to the sting on agr The point is that there also have hard bargan ties, as is "stratons" men. The cille those rather diffi by Britain, the worki agricultur be gained traditional sides of the President to infuse into officia and resolution

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ro da Vinci, the universal genius of the Italian Renaissance, left at his death notebooks containing—interspersed with pages, 5,000 pages in all, a jumble without order as he described to himself. He wrote from right to left, because he was left-handed, and most of the writing mostly flows from the left hand. He wrote small and fast, might took him, no matter else was already on the page. Sometimes there was a rate mystification. These are urgent, enigmatic, together with some more numerous manuscripts, are a part of the record of one of the most marvellous minds ever possessed by man. At his death, the manuscripts had begun to be dispersed fifty years later and in cases broken up. They have not rest in widely scattered libraries, including the Ambrosiana in Milan, national libraries in Paris, London, and Bonn, and the Royal Library in Windsor. The Royal Library of the Earl of Arundel had some at Holkham. A volume of 72 pages was sold to Pierpont Morgan earlier in the century. Another of 32 pages, a treatise, "On the nature, weight, and motion of water", is about to be put on the market.

When the Royal Academy, in need of money, put up for sale in 1962 its Leonardo cartoon, "The Virgin and Child with St. John the Baptist and St. Anne", the public was invited to subscribe the sum of £800,000 to keep it "for the nation". The response was sufficient when topped up by a contribution of £350,000 from the Treasury, to prevent its sale abroad.

It would be unrealistic to expect a similar response if there were a public appeal to match the £1 million pounds which the Leicester MS is expected to fetch at auction. That is because the manuscript, though an object of surpassing interest both for its contents and for its being the handwork of so great a genius, is not as the cartoon is, an object of unique beauty. It is a scholar's item. What matters is that it be preserved and accessible for study: where it is preserved is of comparative indifference.

There might be a further reason for lack of enthusiasm for a public sale. The cartoon is a fairly good example of the top end of the value scale, beyond the range of production, surrounded by invitations with howbeit contribution, are the first anywhere of the minds of the minister and the National Endowment for the Arts. They are the first big to make a mark of the world's would send funds either in lieu of tax or in exchange. The crippled respond to the of other places. These may yet have been treated as a heritage."

Mr J. R. Fisher

As a librarian, often responsible for the supervision of an inquiry into a busy north London public library, I feel I must challenge Mrs. Kirk's assumption (September 15) the electoral roll can reveal the identity of "those elderly who live in it". The electoral register, is a comprehensive guide to who is at any particular address, lives in it, to whether anyone lives in it.

In practice, most librarians would seek to restrict information on the basis of arbitrary decisions arising from a person's appearance, which in any case can be wrong. To restrict, moreover, use of information which every man has a rightful duty to verify itself be unethical as well as unjust.

There her concern for the privacy, but would suggest that the duty and "keeping" would be best answered by the bank or the neighbours and caring attitude towards our elders. Increasing the people's awareness of the latent dangers in giving access of their homes to strangers (who often wear in an "official" guise) and keeping valuables and savings in a home, rather than in a bank or office, might be a means of least minimising the risk to their

cannot be eliminated entirely.

I would suggest that the safety of our elderly citizens would be better served by the encouragement of a more open and honest attitude than a closed and secretive one.

Yours sincerely,
J. R. FISHER
37 Leys Road,
Leytonstone, E15
September 15.

Visit by EEC group

From Miss Elyria Roberts

Sir, I don't know whether your readers are as bewildered as I am by Dr. Havard's letter in *The Times* today (September 17) about the visit to London of the President of the EEC's Economic and Social Committee, Signor Raffaele Vanni.

Signor Vanni wants to meet members of the British Government, the House of Commons, of the TUC, the British Union of Farmers and of consumer organisations. He has done so. He also wanted to meet representatives of the liberal professions in the United Kingdom, since they also are represented in his committee. To be represented in touch with "do so", he was put in touch with the UK inter-professional Group, which represents about 12 professional associations. They kindly invited him to lunch and he is

Dr. Havard the other lawyers, the members of the British Medical Society, not "politically" national trade unionists. I imagine will scarcely be surprised. Yours sincerely ELYRIA R. (Chairman, Health and Social, EEC Committee)

8 Lloyd Square, September

The chairman

From Mrs. M. Giffard

Sir: I sympathise with you over the problem. When my wife, I wear, I cover them and

tail and a

example of

Yours faithfully

MARGOT KIRK

34 Wellington, Nantwich, Cheshire.

From Miss **Ellyrs Roberts**
Sir, I don't know whether your readers are as bewildered as I am by Dr Havard's letter in *The Times* today (September 17) about the visit to London of the President of the EEC's Economic and Social Committee, **Signor Rasmussen**.
He has been wanted to meet the Prime Minister of the British Government. He has done so. Of the TUC, the CBI, of farmers and of consumer organizations, he has done so. He also wanted to meet representatives of the liberal professions in the United Kingdom, since they also are represented in his committee. He has done so. He has been in touch with the various professional groups, which represents about 12 professional associations. They kindly invited him to lunch and he is

From Mrs Marjorie J. Sharp
Sir, I sympathise with Mr John
Gillard Watson (September 12)
over the problem of his shirt tails.
When my husband's collars began
to wear, I used to be able to re-
cover them with material from the
tail-end still leave an adequate
neck-up. Is this yet one more
example of built-in obsolescence?
Yours faithfully,
MARJORIE J. SHARP,
34 Wellington Road,
Nantwich,
Cheshire.

From Professor J. N. Morris

Sir, Dr Draper's remarks on heart disease, which captured the headlines (September 19), have generated a unhelpful debate on the role of National Health Service and prevention versus treatment; would that life was so simple. Let me state a few facts which Dr Draper and Dr Burkitt (September 13) disregard.

In 1980, it may conservatively be estimated that 100,000 people in the United Kingdom will seek help from the National Health Service for coronary heart disease. Readers will know from their own, their family's or friends' experience that modern medicine can do a lot to help heart patients, but sometimes life-saving after a heart attack; through drugs and advice on the mode of life, all the way to the successful bypass operation for intractable angina. To deny three quarters of the heart patients discussed; to discuss it in terms of the 1/100th of 1 per cent of them who might be offered a heart transplant isn't serious either. Some or most of the heart patients are "high technology", a term that has come to be used pejoratively for some of scientific medicine as if this was not in fact one of mankind's achievements. But if we can afford to ask the question that the nation we have scarcely confronted. Why devote less than 6 per cent of the gross national product to health services? Why not 7 per cent? Perhaps the answer is that we have much of the simpler demands? Etc.

re-quired by tion? The ad as well as ions hocking of ions waiting lists, disparities, and those who vice, doctors are much more much; and if we had a national health as if their concern be earned by comorbidity. It means an ex- adequate exer- and must ex- eading less su- all that is e- everybody; the health ser- Government w- the conditions in a heart pa- cific clinical alone can ge- anti-health? fo tobacco indus- is years later. Clearly, the v- needs of the ment of health On working p- health care is e- 30% share mu- might be brin- What is par- has to make

education. In a new question on the NHS it is whether in preventive medicine as well as in medical training, but we resources too.

Yours faithfully,
J. N. MORRIS,
Departments of
Internal Medicine
and Community
London School
of Hygiene and
Tropical Medicine,
Keppel Street,
September 12.

From the Director of the National Consumer Council

Sir, It was disturbing to read in *The Times* (September 12) that several local councils have already run out of money for loft insulation grants to individual applicants less than halfway through the financial year, but it was a predictable consequence of the ill-considered cuts in the Government's insulation programme earlier this year.

Not only was the total allocation for loft insulation grants reduced below the level of last year's spending at a time when soaring fuel prices were likely to increase the demand for the grants; but the rising costs of insulation, together with the recent increase in the Government grant, mean that the amount available will go less far than before.

important steps by making insulation grants a pensioner household must be kept up to date to meet the maximum of allocating an amount this year. But Council research has shown that the need for insulation is quite and very per cent grant needy households chronically sick families with children. The Government's failure to increase the grant for the saving value of the individual low cost household insulation grants to afford a way

From Mr Brian Hogan
Sir, Anyone who believes that the violence which attends football games can be eliminated, or even curbed, by increasing existing penalties will believe anything. Penalties are not deterred by such a disciplinary action as the league takes; nor is the hooligan element in the crowd deterred by further penalties in the courts.

What might go some way to ending inciting public conduct on the field is a system whereby for every so many penalty points incurred for "bookings" and "sendings-off" the club lost a point from its total in the league table. In cup games the accumulation of a prescribed number of penalty points should involve disqualification from the competition.

Similarly, where a club can be fairly held responsible for violent behaviour on the terraces, the club should be fined by losing league points, not by losing money.

The only clubs likely to be opposed to such a scheme as this would be those tolerant of unruly behaviour on the pitch and indifferent to violent behaviour off it.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN HOGAN,
11 Lady Wood Road,
Leeds 8.

From Mr Geph
Sir, Mr John is one of selectors' choice in the West Indies. Roland Martin, who has been chosen surely is qualified to be his merits as a batsman and the fact that he is a Peshawar Warner West Indies.

From Mr John Woodcock
Sir, I am writing to you in connection with the 15th September 18) there have gone to promising young players in Mr Woodcock. It is hard to find a player who is not a good batsman, a good bowler, a good fielder, and a good captain. (Australia), G. (India), E. (Italy) and F. (Peru). Would you or Basil do any of these things? I have been told that you would Mr V. planned that, was compromised, was uncompromising, but unpredic- R. (England), elder Patsau (Yours faithfully)

G. WHEATR
Spectator.
56 Doughty St

From Mr. P. E. Vinson
Sir, May I reply to the letters from
Professor C. D. Darlington (August
12) and Mr. P. Beazley (August 31)
as both contain statements which
are not in accordance with the facts.
The National Fruit Trials which
Professor Darlington suggests as
being an obstacle to the introduction
of new apples were initiated in 1907
by the Ministry of Agriculture and
the Royal Horticultural Society
aiming to give new varieties of
apples and other fruits an impartial
trial. In all trials the new varieties
are compared with known varieties
of recognized value to determine
whether they possess improved
qualities and commercial merit. All
the new apples from the John Innes
Institute went through these trials
and most were shown to have per-
formed no better and often less
satisfactorily than existing varieties.
The Director of the National Fruit
Trials, at the time J. S. Pomeroy
was assisted in assuming the
duties of new varieties by a sub-
committee of experts which included
the head of the plant breeding
section of the John Innes Institute.
The director of the John Innes Institute
was also a member of the NFT main
advisory committee, yet there is no
record of either representative from
John Innes ever protesting that their

resources be directed in prevention? The answer must be doubtful as well as long-term, because of the backlog of inadequate premises, the waiting lists, unacceptable regional disparities, and the poor pay of those who work in the health service, doctors and administrators apart.

From the *Chairman of the Historic Buildings Committee of the Greater London Council*

Sir, The news (September 17) that a Leonardo manuscript is to be offered at auction by the trustees of the Holkham Estate is rightly exciting comment.

Whatever pressing reasons may have forced such a decision on the trustees, the fact is that the sale will represent the disposal of a part of the nation's treasure. We are clearly not, as a nation, nor are we ever likely to be, in a position to possess such treasure again. What is lost can never be replaced or good.

I am however disturbed by the thought that the National Heritage Memorial Fund may be called upon to find a large sum to prevent this loss. In a sense the manuscript will not be lost at all, except that it has, in effect, been sold for good to Italy. Wherever it comes to rest it is most unlikely that it will, as a consequence of sale, be destroyed, mutilated or neglected. It will be cared for, certainly, and available to scholars and will probably be seen by the public.

The "threat" to it is simply that it may be moved from one careful owner to another, like a vintage car. The serious question raised is whether it is wise to encourage conditions in which great works of art are hawked around like old cars and have to be "rescued" by the nation which has long enjoyed them.

Given that a "rescue" operation is being contemplated, I suppose that the cost could not be less than the cost of repairs and insurance. Such a sum could immediately secure the future of the two endangered Hawksmoor churches or Hovingham and the Grange and probably leave enough in small change to restore and endow a country house, restore a great theatre or bring some beautiful but desperately distressed urban village back to life. The benefit, in terms of the preservation and enrichment of the national cultural heritage would, in these cases, be matched by social, environmental and (because old buildings attract visitors to Britain) economic benefits.

I would not, for a moment, agree that the Leonardo manuscripts should not be jealously safeguarded, but every uproar over the threatened export of a portable work of art which could be displayed in an air conditioned room anywhere in the world underlines our national indifference to the irreplaceable riches which surround us. When the Leonardo is auctioned the amount by which the price is raised for each bid, one may confidently predict, considerably exceed the amounts which the owner of an historic building may expect to obtain in grants from national or local funds to help him to preserve his building. A centenary could be transformed with the sum finally bid.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM BELL,
Member, Historic Buildings Sub-Committee, Greater London Council, City County Hall, SE1.
September 18.

From Miss Barbara Coulton

Sir, Interviewed on Radio 4 this morning (September 17), the Minister for the Arts expressed concern at the projected sale of the Leonardo manuscript and his determination to protect our heritage. In what way is Leonardo any more than the Elgin Marbles (any more)? Yours etc.
BARBARA COULTON,
6 Bursley House,
57 Grange Road, W3.

From *Mr D. Laurent Giles*

Sir, While one can only sympathise with Mr Willingham's views (September 15) on the growth of the arms race—and one must wish it were otherwise—there is no doubt, alas, that the unflinching counter-argument put forward so eloquently on the opposite page of *The Times* today (September 15) by Mr Noble Frankland.

prevailed. In which case the Battle of Britain might never have been fought, as Group Captain Bader suggested yesterday. Mr. Williamson might never have been able to complain.

If anyone doubts the need for constant improvement of our defences, let us look at the Soviet Television News spectacular featuring the horrifying (may, obscene), sight of machine gun-firing Soviet troops and tanks pouring out of an armada of the most modern Soviet bombers and craft, with tanks and lorries and guns paratropping from the skies above.

Why have the Soviets expanded their amphibious forces to such an enormous degree over the past 15 years? Why do they need 15 times the number of amphibious hovercrafts as are in the entire inventory of all the Western nations? Why all this armada of monstrous craft in the Baltic? For defensive purposes?

Let Mr. Williamson and his fellow thinkers read the prescient words of Admiral Gorshkov on what he calls the "Naval Art." He understands the importance of our islands as a key to northern Europe and

From the Premier of Belize
Sir, Your editorial in The Times of August 12 suggests that if the Government of Guatemala is not forthcoming with further concessions to solve the Anglo-Guatemalan dispute, the Government of the United Kingdom should let the matter rest.

This is a defeatist policy. The United Kingdom has urged the United Kingdom and Guatemalan Governments "to continue their efforts to conclude their negotiations without prejudice to the rights of the people of Belize to self-determination, independence and territorial integrity."

The Government of the United Kingdom should not give up easily and let the matter rest, but should be stimulated to greater effort. The Belizean people should not be forced to the price to settle a dispute originating in the past between the United Kingdom and Guatemala. Sincerely,

GEORGE PRICE,
Office of the Premier,
Belmopan,
Cayo District,
Belize,
Central America.

From Professor G. R. Wilson Knight
Sir, As a former member of Sir
Donald Wolfit's committee, I must
oppose Mr Bernard Levin's extrajudicial
criticism of the actor, in which
which reads like a parody of the
facts. Wolfit presented the plays
honestly and mainly without such
distortions as are imputed. He was
never guilty of the blatant falsifica-
tions which have been so fre-
quent, and applauded, today. His
supporting casts were not so weak
as is suggested; in *Othello*, I saw
him as Iago with, significantly, be-
cause the play demands a strong
actor. Yet his *Othello* and *Macbeth*
were not ragged. Stage growling did
not show so appalling a self-concen-
tration, though with powers like his
a degree of egotism may be in order.
Most of all, he respected the play.
It is second-hand, as well as being
second-rate, and should not be per-
petuated. As a lonely exponent he
took Shakespeare on tour, at home
and abroad, to enthusiastic audi-
ences. But he should have put
lunch-hour scenes in London when
other theatres were closed. He had
little financial support. He could

Edith Sitwell. I recall, spoke to
me enthusiastically of his *Macbeth*,
and James Agate thought his Lear
superlative. I myself have seen
him in a number of Productions
and I am sure that his early acts were more deserv-
ing of the title "great acting" than
any I have known. His Volpone and
Soliness were masterly.

What was he like? There appears
to be some malice at work in our
society that reflects a certain kind
of power, and has done so for
nearly a century.

Among obituaries, I would point
out that on February 19, 1958,
with my own additional letter on
the 21st; to Sir Bernard Miles in
The Observer, February 18; and to
the enthusiastic appreciation of
him as both a man and actor in
Harold Hobson in *The Sunday*
Times, February 18. I hope pos-
terity will be guided by such autho-
ritative statements, and not by con-
ventional repetitions of out-dated,
and mostly false, clichés.
Yours, etc.
G. R. WILSON KNIGHT,
Caroline House,
Streatham Rise, Exeter.

Sir, From Mr Keith Kyle

Sir, Of the various proposals put forward about the future of Jerusalem, Lord Caradon's formula (September 8) of a (physically) undivided city containing two sovereignties has the most attractions. However, it is useless to conceal the fact that there are many obstacles of a practical nature.

For instance, if Jerusalem is to be an open city, there could be no ordinary frontier arrangements at that point between the two sovereign states that share it. Relations between Israel and her Arab neighbour (Palestinian or Jordanian) would be required to switch overnight from those of hostility to those of extreme cordiality and mutual respect.

No doubt human ingenuity could devise ways and means of coping with the difficulties but to do so good will and determination would be required in great and unusual quantities.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH KYLE,
25 Oppidans Road, NW3.

From Mr R. J. Packer

Sir, The Times has recorded many recent instances of friction in Anglo-French relations. You may not know, however, how deeply this malaise is entrenched, encompassing even the inanimate world.

I travelled to Paris recently with Air France on a ticket issued by British Airways, was somewhat gloomily contemplating the probability of a difficult day with French officials, only to be further cast down by being told that my flight was not recorded on their computer. I was only partly reassured by the explanation from their charming Air France stewardess.

"Don't worry," she said, "your flight will have been recorded on the British Airways computer. It and the Air France computer often fail to exchange information. They seem to reject each other's messages in a way other computers don't."

Yours ever,
R. J. PACKER,
1 Milverton Street, SE11.
September 10.

From Mr. R. J. Packard
Sir, The Times has recorded many recent instances of friction in Anglo-French relations. You may not know, however, how deeply this malaise is entrenched, how deeply this even the inanimate world.

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Yours ever,
R. J. PACKER,
1 Milverton Street, SE11.
September 10,

FOREIGN REPORT

More than a million have fled

Afghan refugees struggle to find a home in a wasteland

Already in January people were beginning to talk about the Afghans crossing the border into Pakistan as an alarming phenomenon, even in the current age of refugees. By then some 400,000 people, politically hostile to the new Russian-backed Government or particularly threatened by its reforms, were thought to have left their country.

But that was just the first wave. Since then, refugees escaping the fighting have been crossing the border and arriving in the mountainous area of Baluchistan and the North West Frontier Province at the rate of about 3,000 a day. Eighty-six thousand arrived last month.

The latest official figure, issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at the end of August, put the total at 1,130,000 people, of which nearly half are children under 13. Apart from the Palestinians, this is now the largest concentration of registered refugees in the world.

The people arriving are Pathans and Kirghiz, Pashtuns and Tajiks, members of different ethnic groups and sub-groups with different histories and cultures and even languages. Some are nomads, and no one yet knows how many of these will return to their lands in Afghanistan once autumn falls, since even in peaceful times many Afghan transhumants cross the border with their herds to graze traditional summer pastures in the mountains of Baluchistan. Far more, however, are farmers, and they

have come with little other than their knowledge of the land.

The border where many have settled in the North West Frontier Province is mountainous, arid and wholly unsuited to extensive agriculture. Much of it is tribal territory, largely self-sufficient; there are few development projects, few medical facilities, schools or roads, all of which makes relief work slow to organize.

Farther south, in Baluchistan, where one-fifth of the refugees have made their way, the land is rich in mineral resources, but these have not been explored and frequent droughts have driven the inhabitants towards the towns in search of work. The refugees possess few of the skills of city life.

Early this year \$55m (about £37m) was earmarked by the UNHCR for the Afghan refugees; as the numbers have risen, so the budget has had to be doubled. Meanwhile, individual governments, banks and charities have begun to commit funds to the area, and Prince Talal bin Abdul Aziz, special UNHCR envoy, is believed to be raising \$6.5m from the Gulf states for water supplies and health programmes.

Despite these growing donations, the refugees, who have until now been adequately sheltered and fed, are now beginning to meet problems. Some of them are the same as those that afflict refugees everywhere: delays in supplies reaching their destination, 146,500 tents ordered by the UNHCR from Pakistani manufacturers in June have still not been received, or, inappropriateness of items sent (tinned sardines which the refugees are

not used to eating, and Western trousers which they do not wear).

But some are particular to tribal customs and animosities, and to the acute isolation and underdevelopment of the area, as a report published this month by the International Disaster Institute, *Afghan Refugees in Pakistan*, clearly shows.

There is, for instance, the question of herds. Almost two million animals came with the refugees on their trek over the mountains, and these are fast over-grazing the lands on which they have settled. The countryside is also being stripped of wood, as the refugees struggle to find any sort of fuel with which to cook and warm themselves. Water supplies, already inadequate, are becoming critical, especially in Baluchistan.

Finally, the Pakistani Government is wary of allowing foreigners to work in the border areas, and the fact is that they simply do not have enough trained technical staff, particularly medical workers, for the camps.

Nor do the tribal customs of the refugees make relief work smoother. Many are used to a harsh, mountain climate; in the north of Pakistan, in Baluchistan, where tens of thousands of refugees have squeezed into inaccessible narrow valleys, many have fallen sick with malaria, measles, pneumonia and skin infections. A team of doctors and anthropologists who visited the area in April returned saying they thought that up to 70 per cent may have TB. Around

Chitral, there is one doctor for every 54,000 people.

There is also the custom of *purdah*. For the village women, the move to Pakistan has meant being confined to the burning heat of a mud-brick house, suitable for the high mountains they come from but disastrous in the plains where they now find themselves. They fall ill but cannot be visited by male doctors.

Hospitality and asylum, mostly for kin but for strangers, is a basic tenet of the Afghan people who inhabit the region. Until now they have done what they could for the refugees pouring across the mountains. But as winter comes, driving the now unregistered nomads down from the mountains in search of fodder, shelter and food, causing an ever greater scarcity of firewood, a more acute lack of housing and the spread of infectious diseases that come with the cold, the hospitality may be too far stretched.

The refugees have repeatedly said they intend to return home. When asked by a UNHCR official what they lacked and needed, the men, as seen in a recent Granada film by Andre Singer called *Afghan Exodus*, replied instantly, without hesitation: "Arms."

But the feeling in the area is that their stay can only be long one, and that if extreme misery is to be avoided, the emergency relief work now going on must be transformed into long-term development plans—not just for the refugees, but for the people among whom they have come to rest.

Caroline Moorehead



Heavily armed soldiers stand by as voters turn out in Santiago during last week's constitutional plebiscite.

Chile's middle class helped Pinochet to slam the door on democracy

In the main hallway of the Edificio Diego Portales, headquarters of the Chilean junta, is a large photograph of President Augusto Pinochet walking by a tranquil lake. Holding his hand is a small child. The message is clear enough: Put your trust in me and I will lead you to a better life.

Last week in Santiago, in the day, immediately before and after Chile's constitutional plebiscite, I had a taste of that good life.

Two separate occasions that I was aware of, and probably others of which I was unaware—I was followed by men who were presumably agents of the National Intelligence Centre (CNI), the domestic intelligence agency which has taken over from the discredited National Intelligence Directorate (DINA).

Criticism of the activities of "British" journalists in Santiago to cover the plebiscite were published in the leading daily newspaper, *El Mercurio*. Finally, at half past midnight on the eve of the vote, a group of British reporters and other customers were told by a policeman to leave a bar in which they were drinking. Nothing extraordinary in that, perhaps, particularly as the junta had decreed that plebiscite day should be "dry"—but the policeman had his hands clasped firmly to an automatic weapon, and he was smiling just under a few centimetres of the total. The young woman to whom I spoke, who cried angrily "I demand the right to remain confused," was not to be allowed such a luxury.

But even with this caveat about *El Mercurio*, the view for Pinochet was all large. Women voted heavily in his favour, a point not lost on the President who said in his victory speech that "once again this women have saved Chile". Many of them were voting for a quiet life, provided you keep your head down and are prepared to suffer the everyday indignities of a repressive dictatorship—such as the heavily censored freedom of speech—it is still possible to live quite an ordinary, and in the times at least, quite a materially comfortable life.

The urban middle classes also probably voted "Yes" in large numbers. These are the people with the least vivid memories of the Allende period when the economy went haywire and many of them fared badly. For these people, anything that stands between them and a return to that nightmare is to be encouraged, even if it is a dictator whom at a small level they have little time for.

How many people voted "Yes" simply out of fear is impossible to gauge. But in a plebiscite, which when all the rhetoric about a new constitution was stripped away, was simply a vote for or against the junta, for or against the nation, people may have judged that, since Pinochet was bound to win anyway, it would be unwise to indulge their consciences by voting "No".

That said, it has to be reported that at the polling booths there were no obvious signs of tension, indeed the atmosphere was something of a holiday.

The outside world may think that, under the circumstances, the "No" vote of over 30 per cent was creditable and a sign of hope for the future. But they are simply certainly wrong. The "No" vote was made possible by coming together of Christian Democrats and left groups into a loose coalition. Any holding such a spirit of cooperation can survive at best eight years—the period for which, under the transitional provisions of the constitution, Pinochet will continue to hold power—without being replaced. The groups who came together last night to oppose the new constitution are likely to break apart again just as quickly.

The leftists, already operating underground, will burrow ever deeper, and the Christian Democrats are going to have a hard time just holding their own organization together.

Senior Eduardo Frei, a former President and the most charismatic figure among the Christian Democrats, will be well into his seventies by the first date of elections to the House of Deputies and the Senate could be placed. Even before the first results of the plebiscite, Frei's people were saying openly that this was the end of Senor Frei.

That, indeed, has been part of Pinochet's strategy for his believing it was imperative to have a new constitution before the hands of power, back to the people, the country has been cleansed of such men.

As the votes were being counted on plebiscite night, the atmosphere was one of a cynical acceptance of a new era of dictatorship, of shouting their own praises in praise of Pinochet. As one cynical observer said, "They'll crown him king now, but they'll crown him a god later."

The tone was chilling: it was the sound of a people slamming the door on democracy. Whether they voted willingly for Pinochet or under duress does not matter, now they have said "Yes" for at least the next eight years.

Malcolm Brown



This is where the world's finest single malt comes from.

No single malt whisky is more respected than Glenmorangie. Produced since 1738 in a distillery

overlooking the Dornoch Firth, it remains today what it has always been.

Virtually unrivalled for taste. And, hardly surprisingly, in somewhat limited supply.

Since 1894, however, the subtle pleasures of Glenmorangie have been available on a more generous scale.

It is to be found in a blended whisky called Highland Queen.

Produced very slowly, using time-honoured, not to say old-fashioned methods, Highland Queen contains a very high proportion of malt whisky.

It is, in short, to ordinary blends what Glenmorangie is to ordinary single malts.



Malaysian economy

Chinese losing hold on business

A Swiss banker on his way to Indonesia was recently obliged to make an unscheduled stop in Kuala Lumpur. Delayed for a couple of days, he decided to put the time to good use and began soliciting investment. In two days he had potential investments of 6m Swiss francs (£1.5m) lined up.

None would suggest that every last franc of that money was Chinese; or that it would not have been invested abroad anyway, but at time of unprecedented development and opportunity it was a significant amount of money to be solicited almost casually on a visit to Malaysia for transmission outside the country.

Malaysia's new economic policy, strives to bring more into the country's business life the native Bumiputras, or ethnic Malays, who have traditionally been outside the real centres of business and civil service power. The important posts had always gone to the Chinese who were generally more capable of handling business and had the immigrant's doleby help me but myself attitude to life.

The extent of the Chinese domination of Malaysian business comes home strikingly even in the rural sphere. In some it is possible to walk the length of the main street without seeing a Malay-owned shop.

The new economic policy, which was born of the 1959-60 Chinese riots, seeks to modify the process of natural selection and competition to reserve jobs in the professions, civil service and business, for Malays in preference to their Chinese and Indian fellow countrymen. Under the policy, Malays are supposed to have a 20 per cent participation in all industrial and commercial activities by 1990.

Considering that at the time of the 1959 riots Malays owned only 1.5 per cent of a firm's

assets of limited companies in West Malaysia, it was and is an ambitious target and the present rate of transfer of the country's wealth to the Malay community, largely through government investment, will have to be considerably speeded up if the target is to be reached.

Even with that in mind many leaders of the non-Malay community are concerned that the somewhat hazy rules laid down in the new economic policy are being exceeded by the Government.

All political parties accept the policy, to greater and lesser degrees, but all of them, the ruling United Malays National Organisation included, are becoming more strident in opposing or defending its implementation. A gradual, and perhaps inevitable, polarization in Malaysian politics is taking place.

In such an atmosphere and with each ethnic community baring so much of its life to the other, it is hard to find any Malaysian able to take a detached view of the state of his country.

But it is hard to resist the arguments of the Chinese and Indians who complain that the Civil Service is gradually, but markedly, becoming less efficient, that some of the best talent is overpaid where it is needed most, and that party corruption is on the increase.

These charges are largely as a result of the introduction of Malays in government and business posts for which they would not have qualified in normal circumstances. Educational opportunities are being denied to the Chinese and Indians who have to study in ethnic schools unsupported by government assistance, or leave to begin with. Some parents are leaving the country for the sake of their children's education, others where Chinese schools must be run

on donations from the community and are thus at a considerable disadvantage in financing buildings and equipment. The brain drain resulting from government decrees that the medium of instruction must be Malay has recently seen a leading surgeon leave the country for Singapore so that he could get the kind of education he wanted for his children.

The lack of Chinese universities because of the government insistence on Malay as the language of instruction has confirmed the feeling among the Chinese that they must look elsewhere for higher education and jobs.

The pro-Malay policy is having its effect, much faster than the economic ladder. A disgruntled Indian takes his case to the courts, claiming that he has lost his job because of the new policy. In 1975-76, of 500 jobs, in nursing advertised by the Government, 495 went to Malays, four to Indians and one to a Chinese. Non-Malays claim that government jobs are not filled by lack of qualified Malays are similar. Last year, 1000 jobs were filled by the first Malays to apply the following year.

But at least for the present the country's wealth can comfortably be shared between the Malays and the Chinese. It is hardly to be expected, however, that the United States, a dominant power in the region, will support a policy of favouring Malays in favour of Chinese.

David Watts

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Sept. 15. Dealings End, Sept. 26. \$ Contango Day, Sept. 29. Settlement Day, Oct. 6.
 \$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

RECENT ISSUES		Price
Baker Electronics 1984 Ord (900)		75¢
Bratt Int		75¢
Energy Capital 1984 Ord (250)		75¢
Marine Services 51 Common Shares		75¢
Sherrill Petroleum 1984 Ord (160)		75¢
Spice and Spice 1984 Ord		75¢
S.P.C. Minerals 1984 Ord (60)		75¢
Shackleton Petroleum 1984		75¢
Sherrill Petroleum 1984 Ord		75¢
Sherrill Petroleum 1984 Ord		75¢
Treasury 11% A 1991 (1,410)		75¢
1984 Ord 1984 (1,410)		75¢
Latest dates		
ALPHABET ISSUES		
Blue Chip 1984	Oct 31	50¢
British Way 1984	Nov 10	25¢
Canada 1984	Nov 10	25¢
M. Holdings 1984	Nov 10	25¢
Mercentale 1984	Nov 10	25¢
Novy Peak 1984	Nov 10	25¢
Specious Gains 1984	Oct 10	25¢
Issue below in parentheses. The dividend is listed in dollars and cents. The price is in dollars and cents. The price is in dollars and cents. The price is in dollars and cents.		

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

GKN makes the point

There are no illusions left that the recession in engineering is not the most severe since the last war, then they were by Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds.

sterm results showed profit down two-thirds at £22.4m on static sales of £1,000m—and, worse, the as been cut by a third to 5.7p.

GKN does not take action of that y and with the payment still on historic cost basis it had a

age then is simple. The recession, in its automotive components in the United Kingdom, is so deep "spect so bleak that it had no but to reflect this in its payment."

home markets there is no point around the "black" line, the steel- ibly cost profits some £18m, but- uring of a random figure since irsed what was really going on in lace. The outcome, with one or r spots helping to mitigate the is that GKN earned no profit in



Hill, chairman of GKN.

however, where the automotive fared better than anywhere else outside Japan, the position was bough hardly encouraging. Ir ere GKN has a \$100m investment ring constant velocity joints for ed of US small cars coming on its will not start until next year. ally, the share price, along- ket, was shattered by this, GKN 199p. Whether this is the floor on the dividend, rather than h can now be expected to fall to around £40m. for the year, a third in the year's dividend yield of 91 per cent which is t out of line. But GKN may e less severe with the final—y arest rates should be falling and sheet remains strong with gear- 30 per cent.

the efficiency benefits which from the retrenchment which ing on over the past year will be e. This is no time for long-term 'be losing their nerve.'

Mackintosh title for share

of a 9 per cent drop in the ket for confectionery after last- crease and destocking by re- fers at Rowntree/Mackintosh under heavy pressure.

total fully paid down- was no worse than the- eared, although it compares- eared, reported recently by- eared, which seems to have- eared, for cost-cutting.

Rowntree has managed- eared, at share, mainly at the expense- eared, to hold its volume, shortfall to- eared, points. Turnover was slightly- eared, only 10 per cent but margins- eared, had particularly overseas- eared, enough to leave trading profits- eared, ed. On top of this there is a- eared, ap in interest charges to £6.6m- eared, ional £1m depreciation.

es and higher borrowings have- eared, parts in lifting finance charges

Delta Metal A yield prop

At the interim stage Delta Metal's results exemplify many of the difficulties facing British industry, particularly engineering. An 11.9 per cent increase in profit before interest and taxation to £22.7m for example conceals a sales collapse in the second quarter, accompanied by lower margins and extensive destocking. It could have been worse, though: the dividend is maintained at 2.57p gross, though cover is reduced to 2.35 times against just over three times last year.

To some extent earnings per share, at 4.3p, against 5.6p, reflect the technical problem of unrelieved ACT as profits fall; taxation rose by £1.3m to £6.8m. But the problem also lies with trading. Although sales were up by 10.3 per cent to £283m, the increase came from higher prices rather than volume, which fell by up to 15 per cent.

In common with so many companies, interest charges were another headache. Although borrowings are only a little above the £99.5m recorded at the end of 1979, charges rose by a considerable 44 per cent to £9.24m.

Another difficulty, peculiar to a company such as Delta, is swings in metal prices, mainly copper. The metal account, which is separate from the profit and loss, showed a loss of £2.57m compared with a gain of £2.44m in the first half of last year. But the company's reserve of £34.3m at the year end has not much changed.

But perhaps the gloomiest point is that a straight comparison with last year hides the full extent of the downturn because 1979's first half was marred by the approximately £2m in profits lost through strikes.

Nevertheless, Delta hopes that the second quarter's collapse in demand has steadied, or at least slowed. But it seems unlikely that second-half pre-tax profits will match the £15.4m made last time round.

If the dividend is maintained, the prospective yield is around 14.3 per cent, and that will be a good prop for the shares at around this level.

Mr MacGregor puts his stamp on British Steel

Peter Hill looks at the first steps by the BSC's new chairman (right) to revitalize the troubled industry



It is no less worrying for the Government. In the next few weeks the Cabinet will be faced with deciding how much additional cash it is prepared to commit to the corporation. It has already accepted that its total subsidy this year might well exceed £850m.

In view of the continued deterioration of business, the prognosis made four months ago of a £400m overspend—look optimistic. Ministers therefore look like having to make fundamental decisions on the size of steel industry they believe that Britain should retain in the long term.

Yesterday's organizational changes coupled with the keenly priced terms agreed with the National Coal Board for home produced coal are tangible evidence that the chairman is committed to reducing the heavy overhead burdens on the corporation. A similar deal is being sought with the Electricity Council in an attempt to reduce electricity tariffs which BSC and other steelmakers consider to be disproportionately high compared with their competitors in Europe.

The MacGregor style of management is characterized by cool and considered steps towards the realization of objectives and there is no indication from the BSC that this time round everything should be concentrated around some grand plan which becomes an inflexible straitjacket.

In the short term the commercial options which could be implemented are stark and unappealing to an Government—there have been reports for example that the corporation might have to give a further 60,000 jobs, but there are important longer term social and strategic issues which have to be taken into account.

When he took over the unenviable chairmanship of BSC, Mr MacGregor underlined the need to reduce costs, improve efficiency and become competitive. As a result, the corporation leaders when he met them last month some further "compacting" of the business will be required. The scale and rate of further retrenchment however will be influenced not only by British Steel but by the market and by the Government.

appear at meetings of Eurofer, the European steelmen's club. Together with the Italians they are refusing to have any truck with the commission's request for a 13 per cent cut in production in the final three months of this year. The commission is now threatening to invoke the European Coal and Steel Community sanctions in a bid to persuade the reluctant steelmen to toe the line.

The European dimension looms large in the minds of Mr MacGregor and his boardroom colleagues. The three-month steel strike provided a golden opportunity for the European steelmakers to off-load onto the United Kingdom market a sizeable slice of the surplus steel which they had produced.

Indeed, Britain has become the dumping ground for much surplus steel now washing around Europe and frozen out of the United States market by the abolition of the trigger

price mechanism which followed the anti-dumping suit brought against exporters and European producers by the United States Steel Corporation.

Imports are still flooding into the United Kingdom market and cushioned price competition is rampant. The corporation is itself being forced to move in with its own discounts and rebates in a desperate attempt to hold on to business.

Private sector steelmakers have the same problems and both they and British Steel are faced with an increasingly acute shortage of orders from large British consuming industries like shipbuilding, manufacturing and the motor manufacturers. There is no sign yet that the bottom of the ordering slump has been reached.

The flow of orders into the steelworks is dwindling weekly and short-time working has become widespread with labour cutbacks in the private steel

companies. Across the BSC more than 50,000 workers are now on short-time working.

Steel industry experts calculate that it will be at least two years before steel consumption returns to even the moderate levels prevailing at the end of last year. This year consumption could be down by 5 per cent worldwide on 1979 levels. In the United Kingdom the present recession across industry and the lack of orders will have a dramatic impact on steel production.

Last month United Kingdom crude steel production from the public and the private sectors fell to a mere 245,000 tonnes a week (although the order inflow is substantially below that level) equivalent to a 30 per cent drop on the corresponding period last year. Combined crude steel production this year will be lucky to reach 12 million tonnes.

For British Steel this represents an awesome prospect and

Technology

The quickening pace of change

The Labour Party this week added a few thousand more votes to the long-running debate on what is called the microelectronics revolution in its discussion paper on the subject. But before the microelectronics revolution can be fully understood, the power of the microprocessor must be translated into products for the marketplace.

The micro products with which we are familiar are, in a sense, the easy ones—the electronic calculators, watches, computers and games. Over the next decade microelectronics will become a basic part of many more products and of the production processes which will make those products and many others.

Not much has been said about the far-reaching changes in production methods, management and technology. Microelectronics advances are but one aspect of the technological change that lies ahead, and technological change as a whole is only a part of the challenge that faces those concerned with production engineering.

An ambitious attempt to look ahead and identify the main materials and structures, computing, manufacturing methods and management systems.

Scientific advances leading to new processes will include genetic manipulation to produce

enzymes and to convert petroleum oils, for example, into food products. Insulin, interferon and various fermentations may be produced. Energy and plastics from biomass produced from rapidly growing vegetation is another example of a completely new manufacturing process.

To control processes, the use of "non contact" methods of measurement—based, for example, on ultrasounds, lasers and capacitance—will increase. And capacitive fields will be used in ferrous casting to improve the metallurgical structure.

In materials and structures, polymers and other materials will be used increasingly in novel ways. The use of carbon-fibre-reinforced plastics, already present in aircraft structures, will be extended to boats, cars and buses (saving weight and fuel and reducing fatigue and corrosion).

As the cost of timber rises, plastics will increasingly take over in traditionally wooden structures. Where metals are used there will be more casting, sintering and hydraulic forming. Fabrications will be joined together and the use of rivets and bolts may diminish by about 25 per cent. Machine tool frames will be made from composite materials.

In computing, the report predicts, the capacity of computer memories will rise a hundredfold and magnetic bubble memories will challenge the flexible magnetic discs

which are already superseding magnetic tapes (which themselves have been displacing punched paper tape).

Among expected changes in manufacturing methods, robots will soon take over "hot, heavy and dangerous work"; electro-spark erosion will complement traditional metal cutting techniques, particularly for making dies and punches; and bearings incorporating fine diamond dust in nickel plating will reduce the life of shafts by reducing friction and wear.

Improved management systems will accompany the spread of microcomputers. Appropriate computer programming languages will be developed; and the techniques of value analysis, "decision trees", operational research, ergonomics, programmed learning and "lowest acceptable standards" will be stimulated.

But what is technologically possible is not always implemented—there are barriers to successful innovation. The most severe is fear of the financial risks involved. As a result many large organizations which could innovate prefer to proceed by an evolutionary pathway.

"Unless it is particularly inspired," the report says, "this usually does not make a major breakthrough either to the market or to improved profitability—merely a plateau of parts maintained sales of a product which would have deteriorated in the market."

Other barriers include lack of available finance; discounted

cash flow calculations, which "are not ideal in situations of both high risk and steep inflation"; and accountants' experience that designers are likely to be over-optimistic about the benefits and costs of success. And, the report argues, "the best is the enemy of the good": technical staff should be held strictly to the budgets laid down.

Among the recommendations in the report industry is urged to study the likely mismatches for the introduction of such developments as computer-aided design and manufacture, robotics and group technology. Government is urged to consider establishing strategic stocks of materials; and to continue to aim at the conservation of materials and of energy in the interests both of industrial efficiency and of long-term survival.

The overall message of the Institution's report is that the breed and better aspects of improving production technology and management will be just as vital as the glamorous end-products of the microelectronics age.

* *Microelectronics: published by the Labour Party, London; 86p.*

† *Current and future trends of manufacturing management and technology in the UK: published by the Institution of Production Engineers, London; £12 (members), £16 (non-members).*

Kenneth Owen

Business Diary: Whose hand on BA's controls?

have something. The chairman, is due to retire but, so, too, is Sir Wilkinson.

g some more responsible minister John Nott, Airways chief, Watts.

tempting in an embattled political job with that man, Watts, the man who defines to see BA's present Government to self-off shares.

do both jobs, perhaps an extra role for his two lieutenants, commercial director Gerry, negotiations director, is a City man, rising Tory star, for his career in man-to deliver to, alive and undisturbed in City, to serve to, and therefore, the appearance badly needed, there is so little moment that Nott have drawn a blank, a BSC-like surprise.

for state corporatization, which Airways has struck, balance, are few. There is the odd prior, chairman, able, strike-free H. who might listen to the

Wallchart

I'M ABOUT TO PREVIEW A FILM WHICH ACCORDING TO OUR TRAINING OFFICER.....

ILLUSTRATES THE OPTIONS OPEN TO BUSINESSMEN IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES

CATCH 22

West German industry does not make a habit of washing its dirty linen in public.

But the country's steelmakers are at present going out of their way to publicize "the trouble" that has broken out between one of their number—the Duisburg-based Klockner-Werke AG—and the rest of the big producers.

The West German iron and steel industry federation has just issued a coy note saying that it is no longer able to issue its usual monthly figures for rolled steel, in hand deliveries and orders, because Klockner is refusing to give it the necessary figures.

Klockner-Werke has been agitating since early summer for a bigger share of production under the EEC's anti-crisis plan, arguing that it has been unfairly penalized because its present line of work is based on the output figures for 1974, which was before its new large plant in Bremen came on stream.

Through its action, Klockner-Werke is bound to be suspected of taking the law into its own hands.

As far as proposed European legislation on trade marks goes, it falls to one woman, a part-time secondary school teacher from Kent called Mrs Ann Thomas, to represent the interests of more than 250 million European consumers.

Mrs Thomas, a mother of two, who receives nothing beyond travel expenses for her work in Brussels, recently found herself alone among 220 highly paid and highly qualified representatives of business interests.

A certain irony attaches to the tale. It appears that when the British Government originally approached her to join the standing advisory committee on trade marks, they did so on the mistaken assumption that she was connected with the National Consumer Council, the quango set up to represent consumer interests in 1975.

In fact, Mrs Thomas's connections were with a much less formal, and wholly unofficial, group styling itself the National Consumer Group. Council pressure group.

What is happening in the dried herbs market? The Lendox, Essex, branch of Sainsbury's has been offering the company's "own label" dried rosemary at 17p, 19p, 21p, or 23p a rub, all of the same size and origin, but stamped with different packing dates.

Other herbs were available at similarly various prices—marjoram, sage and parsley at 19p, 21p and 23p, according to which pack one happened to pick, and dried chives at 28p or 32p.

Lendox do seem to have got a bit confused about the order in which they have put their stocks on the shelves. Sainsbury's headquarters said: "But there have been price increases in July and February, and last October, all within the one year shelf-life we usually allow for dried herbs."

Tasty tip: buy now, before others scent the trend.

Bangkok is the latest capital to have a special shop selling products from Marks and Spencer. The opening received an unusual royal accolade when Princess Soamsawali, wife of Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn, attended a charity fashion show of dresses.

According to David Fenton, of Marks and Spencer's export division, it was the first time that foreign royalty had honoured the British store group in this way.

Fenton said the company had not put capital into the new St Michael centre, in the busiest shopping quarter of Bangkok, but he and Martin Mendoza, senior export executive, came to Bangkok to ensure that St Michael (Thailand) was doing things in proper M and S style.

We are now in 40 countries with our products," Fenton said, "but we don't sell to anyone. We keep a close watch on all the outlets."

Fenton expects St Michael underwear to be the biggest seller in Bangkok, as well as all larger-sized garments. In Bangkok men and women with "more mature" figures find it difficult to get clothes that fit. Apparently, manufacturers believe that all Thais are small and slim.

If, like me, you are alternately mystified and appalled by the names that pop groups give themselves, you might be soothed by a sign outside the Lyceum Ballroom, London. The facade of the building boasts an extremely large, black space, beneath which is the legend "And His Shoutband".

Ross Davies

Tricorp Oil & Gas N.V.

US \$20,000,000

5 1/2 per cent Convertible Subordinated Debentures due 1995

Convertible into Common Stock of and Guaranteed on a Subordinated Basis as to Payment of Principal, Premium (if any) and Interest by

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The Debentures constituting the above have been admitted to the Official List by the Council of The Stock Exchange, subject only to the issue of the temporary global Debentures.

Particulars of the Issuer, the Guarantor and the Debentures are available in the statistical services of Exel Statistical Services Limited and may be obtained during business hours up to and including 10th October 1980 from the brokers to the issue:

Rovve & Pitman

City Gate House, 39-45 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1JA

19th September 1980

FINANCIAL NEWS

UDS falls by £8m in 'miserable' six months

By Richard Allen

More evidence of the dismal conditions in Britain's High Streets has come from UDS Group, the department store and multiple shops chain.

In the six months to August 2, the group has lost £8m in sales from over £10m to little more than £2m pre-tax.

Mr Bernard Lyons, the group's chairman, said last night: "It has been a miserable six months". But he added that the interim outcome was "not at all indicative" of the group's present strength and prospects.

Although the outcome was worse than the market had feared, the shares added 2p to 68p on news that the interim dividend was to be maintained.

at last year's level of 3.7p gross. With fashion clothing bearing the brunt of cutbacks in consumer spending, the group's mens and womenswear divisions fared worst. The menswear business ran into trading losses and Richard Shops managed only to break even.

According to Mr Lyons, these two divisions alone accounted for £3m of the downturn in profits.

A further £3m of the setback was attributed to the John Myers mail order division which is to be taken over by Great Universal Stores under a deal arranged last month.

Sales of the department stores were described as "unexciting" throughout, with William Whiteley's particularly

affected by a drop in demand. Ailders of Chatham in its first full year of trading is not yet profitable, while the remaining stores all turned in lower profits.

In money terms, group sales rose £11m to just over £206m, but Mr Lyons estimated that this figure masked a volume drop of around 5 per cent.

He said that since the interim sales have been running at around 11 per cent above last year's level, but gave a warning that the full year figures will not reach last year's total of £241m.

"We can't be optimistic in these conditions", he said, "but are confident of making good progress as general conditions improve".

Stock markets

Confident start reversed by GKN results

Trading news from GKN, the country's biggest engineering company, pulled the rug from under the stockmarket's confident early gains.

Encouraged by the Bank of England's bulletin which forecast lower inflation, bond gilts and equities opened strongly and leading shares added several pence during a busy morning's trade.

The full money supply figures were much in line with market expectations and gilts were soon showing gains of a point or more at the long end.

News of a settlement to the dock strike sent further encouragement to the market and with the FT Index showing a rise of 6.6 points at 1 o'clock, dealers left for lunch in cheerful mood.

By 2 o'clock the index had crept higher and dealers were confidently predicting that the market would move further ahead during the afternoon.

However, GKN's interim soon changed all that. Profits were much in line with market expectations but the reduced dividend and warnings of worse to come were not welcomed.

Lucas fell 7p to 505p and Vickers 3p to 132p. Hawker, up 8p at one stage, closed unchanged at 232p and Simon Engineering, 2p better on a £35m Portuguese order, closed 2p easier at 284p.

Other leading equities managed to hold on to some of the earlier gains with ICI closing up 2p at 356p, Glaxo up 4p at 258p and Unilever up 8p at 508p. But the FT Index closed 3.1 point down on the day at 497.7.

Profit taking in gilts after the firm start crumpled bonds' initial gains. Short-dated gilts were 1p better at one stage, finally closing with gains of an 1/2p. Longs ended 1/2p to 1 1/2p better on the day.

Reprints from Malaysia that London's stock bid for Dunlop cut no ice and the shares closed 1p lower at 82p.

Distillers was on offer again following the chairman's warning at the annual meeting, and shares tumbled 8p to 217p, while Magnet & Southern fell 8p to 370p, also on the chairman's comments about the future.

Insurance was a good market, during the morning but closed off the best as buying interest evaporated throughout the market following the GKN figures.

Interest centred on the Faber, up 6p to 266p, results, better than expected, announced in the week. Minet Holdings rose 3p to 116p and Hogg Robinson firmed 1p to 141p.

Elsewhere, Eagle Star at 268p, Commercial Union at 180p and Sun Alliance at 802p closed 2p to 3p better.

Delta Metal rose 3p to 58p on better than expected results, and Enderby-McCormick firmed 2p to 55p after trading news.

In stores, UDS rose 2p to 68p on results, but Kitchen Queen tumbled 4p to 9p after further large provisions against losses.

GUS was a firm market but closed off the best at 473p, up 3p. Marks & Spencer added 1p to 107p.

High hopes for its bullion interests and renewed bid rumours sent Johnson Matthey up 16p to 272p, but mines closed mixed after the frenetic activity of the previous day.

Although tanks were unchanged at 353p yesterday, they rose 17p the day before. Could De Beers be interested in tanks' stake in the promising Western Australian diamond fields? So far De Beers, very unusually, has no slice of the action.

Profit-taking trimmed 13p from RTZ to 475p, but Cons Gold was in demand again rising 7p to 613p. Among gold mines, Doornfontein rose 1p to £11 and W. Driefontein rose £13/16ths to £47. But Kinross fell 2p to 828p and Fresco £1 to £251.

Electricals closed below best levels, but dealers reported a firm undertone with the loose holders shaken out in the recent reaction. GEC hit 540p before closing 5p up at 538p and Ferranti firmed 2p to 464p. BICC was a feature with a 6p rise to 153p and ICI firmed 1p to 185p. Second liners generally closed with gains of a penny or two, although George B. Scholes was in demand on further consideration of the recent figures and closed 17p higher at 246p.

Results from Rowntree Mackintosh foods were much as expected and the shares closed 2p easier at 176p. But Dalgety, up 3p to 297p, was good market following recent figures. Tate & Lyle rose 6p to 168p on the buoyant sugar price.

Home banks added a few pence, having digested the Monopoly Commission report on credit cards. Barclays closed 5p up at 438p as did Nat West at 400p. Lloyds firmed 2p to 338p.

In properties, Marler Estates slipped 3p to 105p on news of

a bid approach, and City firmed 2 1/2p to 70p. Elsewhere, British rose 1p to 253p, Britis 1p to 36p and Land Sea 2p to 392p.

Steelers eased 7p after figures, but most tributors, Harold Perry, better to 72p after news.

Fentons rose 4p to investment buying and I. Developments was in rising 5p to 78p.

Oils opened in a glory on the back of institutional buying. Leaders, but activity during the afternoon as closed well off the top, still showing reasonable

BP was up 8p to 31p. Shell up 6p to 416p. I rose 12p to 380p and T. 2p to 344p, but Burnham early 4p gain to close 2p at 192p. KCA International firm spot rising 3p to 380p.

However, apart from Eversys, which slipped 365p to adverse a second-line oils attract interest.

Equity turnover for the 17 was £120.54m, of bargains 16,906. T active stocks yesterday, ing to Exchange. Te were Johnson Matthe Gold, RTZ, GUS, A. S. Group, BP, Burnham, B. Art. Developments, GEI, Thorn EMI, KCA Intern Shell and Blue Circle.

Traded options had quiet day with only 11 contracts, compared with previous days' 1,214. The interest was in October 550's and the series and Cons Gold.

activity was still in the five active resource such as Target, Petro, Magnet Metals where c were running at about cent. Cals were also Tebbitt Group, Burr Harmony Gold and N. A per one done in said a double in large

and a double in large

WARD & GOLDSTONE LTD.

RECORD CAPITAL EXPENDITURE EXCEEDS £4.2 MILLION

YEAR TO 31st MARCH	1980 (£000's)	1979 (£000's)
GROUP SALES	74,046	62,554
TRADING PROFIT	6,062	5,395
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	2,608	3,001
PROFIT AFTER TAX	2,608	2,979
EARNINGS PER ORDINARY UNIT	17.24p	19.69p
DIVIDENDS PER ORDINARY UNIT—NET	5.4p	4.9916p
NET ASSETS PER SHARE	171.8p	157.0p

A copy of the Report and Accounts for the year to 31st March 1980 can be obtained from the Secretary, Ward & Goldstone Ltd., Salford M6 6AP.

The Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation Limited

Report for the half-year ended 30 June 1980

The Directors of The Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation Limited announce that the unaudited net profit attributable to RTZ shareholders before extraordinary items for the first six months of 1980 was £99.7 million (1979 £95.5 million), an increase of £4.2 million (1.1p per ordinary share) over net profit for the corresponding period of 1979. The main areas contributing to the improvement in net attributable profit were the Group's copper operations, and Hamersley Iron and Rössing Uranium. The Group subsidiaries in Zimbabwe, which were not consolidated in 1979, made a small contribution to net attributable profit for the first half of 1980.

Rights Issue of Convertible Unsecured Loan Stock

The Directors have announced separately their intention to issue at par £125 million of 8 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock 1980/1990 by way of a rights offer to holders of RTZ ordinary and accumulating ordinary shares in the proportion of £1 nominal of convertible stock for every 2 shares held. Documents relating to the issue will be mailed to shareholders on 22 September 1980.

Summary

Sales revenue in the first six months of 1980 amounted to £1,453.0 million, an increase of approximately 24 per cent over the comparable period in 1979. The exchange rates for the pound sterling used to translate the sales of overseas subsidiaries were higher in most instances than a year ago and this restricted the extent of the improvement by around 4 per cent. The increase in sales was mainly due to a general higher price for copper, particularly for copper and precious metals, although LME prices for lead were significantly lower than a year ago. Approximately one quarter of the increase in sales revenue was contributed by new subsidiaries and by subsidiaries which were not consolidated in the 1979 accounts. These included the companies acquired by CRA during the early part of 1980 and Group subsidiaries in Zimbabwe.

A major part of the improvement in metal prices occurred during the first three months of the year when market conditions were exceptionally buoyant. During February the LME price for copper reached a peak of £1.375 per pound but by June it had fallen to £0.95 per pound. The average copper price for the first half of 1980 was £1.02 per pound compared with £0.96 per pound for the same period in 1979. Gold prices, which averaged US\$359 per ounce for the period, were more than twice those for the first half of 1979 having reached a record high of US\$356 per ounce in January 1980.

Due principally to the good results achieved during the earlier part of the period, Group profit before tax amounted to £295.2 million for the first six months of 1980, an improvement of £39.9 million, or nearly 36 per cent, over the corresponding period of 1979.

After deducting tax and the amount attributable to outside shareholders, net profit attributable to RTZ shareholders for the first half of 1980 was £99.7 million (1979 £95.5 million), an improvement of £4.2 million (1.1p per ordinary share) over net profit for the corresponding period in 1979. The improvement would have been approximately £3 million greater but for the higher value for the pound sterling at the half-year used to translate the results of the Group's overseas subsidiaries compared with the value a year ago.

Contribution to RTZ's net attributable earnings from its principal activities

Sales by the CRA group showed an increase of over 40 per cent compared with the first six months of 1979, part of which was due to the inclusion of subsidiaries newly acquired under the arrangements with BH South, North Broken Hill Holdings and Western Mining Corporation in the early part of 1980. Hamersley Iron's sales were also significantly higher than in 1979 when shipments were adversely affected by an industrial dispute.

The contribution to RTZ's net earnings from CRA was about 20 per cent higher than a year ago notwithstanding the decrease in RTZ's beneficial interest from 98.2 per cent in 1979 to 61.1 per cent in 1980. Within the CRA group, the main contributor to the improvement in net profit was Hamersley Iron which increased its share shipments by over 40 per cent compared with 1979. Selling prices were also higher. In Bougainville Copper the benefit of the higher prices for copper and gold was largely offset by lower ore grades which resulted in a significant decrease in production. Costs were higher in 1980 due mainly to the increase in fuel costs and the

additional charge for depreciation following the revaluation of assets. Net profit was broadly the same as the first half of 1979. AM&S' net profit for the first half of 1980 was lower than in the same period in 1979, the exceptional profits from silver and the contributions made by the newly acquired operations being insufficient to offset the effect of the lower lead prices and increased costs. Production at the Broken Hill mines and at BHAS was below 1979 levels, but output at the zinc smelters and at the Woodlawn mines joint venture was increased.

Rio Algom achieved increased sales and net profit compared with the first six months of 1979. Sales of uranium were higher, though the contribution to net profit was lower due to increased costs. Sales and net profit from steel and Atlas Alloys were significantly above 1979 levels, the operations at Tracy having been particularly affected by a strike for the greater part of 1979.

Lomax's copper and molybdenum operations achieved increased sales and profits, mainly due to higher metal prices.

Aluminium and the metal trading activities also increased their sales and net profits as a result of the buoyant market conditions for aluminium in the first quarter of the year. RTZ's share of Rio Tinto Mines's earnings showed a useful improvement over the first half of 1979 due mainly to higher prices for gold, silver and copper.

Outlook

Price levels for a number of the metals in which the RTZ Group is interested are currently below average prices realised in the first half of the year, the principal exception being gold. In the climate of the present world economic recession, the prospect of any significant improvement in metal prices and margins on other products in the short term is not particularly encouraging. However, with its wide geographical spread and broad range of activities and products, the Group is well placed to take advantage of improvements in world trading conditions.

(£ millions)	First Half 1980	First Half 1979	Year 1979
Group sales revenue	1,453.0	1,171.3	2,516.6
Group operating profit	283.3	196.7	448.0
Share of profits of associated companies	22.1	15.9	34.8
Dividends and interest receivable	30.6	16.1	36.7
Deduct: Interest payable	40.8	29.4	67.8
Group profit before tax	285.2	199.3	452.7
Deduct: Tax	129.2	86.1	186.5
Group profit after tax	156.0	113.2	266.2
Deduct: Attributable to outside shareholders	76.3	51.6	118.4
Net profit attributable to RTZ shareholders	£89.7m	£61.6m	£147.8m
Earnings per ordinary share	35.57p	24.44p	59.42p
Dividends: Preference	0.2	0.2	0.4
Ordinary—Interim	13.4	10.9	10.9
—Final	—	—	25.6
	£13.6m	£11.1m	£36.9m
Declared per 25p ordinary share	5.50p	4.50p	15.00p
Gross equivalent to UK shareholders	7.86p	6.43p	21.43p

- Notes:
- The results of overseas operations have been translated from foreign currencies into sterling at the quoted rates of exchange ruling at the accounting dates.
 - The amount shown for the 1980 interim dividend is calculated in relation to the ordinary shares currently in issue and no amount is included for any issues of accumulating ordinary shares allotted to holders of accumulating ordinary shares in lieu of dividend. If all accumulating ordinary shares are converted to ordinary shares, the cost of the 1980 interim dividend will be £11.3 million.
 - The results of certain overseas subsidiaries have been adjusted for differences in accounting practices. The effect has been to increase RTZ's net attributable profit for the first half of 1980 by £2.0 million compared with the amount derived from the published results of the subsidiaries concerned. The corresponding adjustments for the first half of 1979 and the year 1979 were an increase of £1.5 million and a decrease of £0.3 million respectively.
 - The first presentation of current cost information for the RTZ Group will be in the annual report and accounts for 1980.

Anti-trust proceedings

A private civil anti-trust action in relation to uranium marketing was brought in 1976 in the United States by Westinghouse Electric Corporation ("Westinghouse") against twenty-nine companies, including RTZ and six other Group companies, and three similar actions were brought in 1977 by the Tennessee Valley Authority ("TVA") against a total of thirteen companies (including RTZ and three other Group companies). It is expected that very heavy damages will be asserted in these actions, which are likely to continue for some time. Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation of America (a US subsidiary of RTZ, Borax Limited) was named in the Westinghouse action but has since been dismissed from those proceedings. Rio Algom Corporation (a US subsidiary of Rio Algom Limited) is an appearing defendant in both actions. RTZ and other Group companies concerned are not appearing in either the Westinghouse or TVA actions on grounds that the US courts do not have jurisdiction over them. In Canada Rio Algom has brought two actions, one against TVA claiming damages of Can\$600 million and one against both Westinghouse and TVA claiming damages of Can\$1,600 million.

In the Westinghouse action in the United States a default judgment on issues of liability was entered in January 1979 by a District Court against all the non-appearing defendants.

(including RTZ and four other non-US Group companies) on the basis of their non-appearance in the proceedings. Later in January 1978 the District Court entered a preliminary injunction purporting to restrain the direct or indirect transfer, withdrawal or divestiture of United States assets by all non-appearing defendants. The default judgment and preliminary injunction were confirmed by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in February 1980. However the Court of Appeals ruled that Westinghouse could not proceed with any hearing on damages against the non-appearing defendants until after the trial of the merits of its liability case (currently scheduled for September 1981) against the appearing defendants, except on conditions that Westinghouse should state if it not accept.

In the first half of 1980 the US subsidiaries of RTZ Borax Limited earned profits equivalent to £11.3 million after tax (first half of 1979—£11.9 million; year 1979—£24.6 million). In view of their uncertainty as to whether the preliminary injunction entered in January 1978 in the Westinghouse proceedings could be alleged to prohibit any payment or transfer to RTZ derived from dividends paid by the US subsidiaries of RTZ Borax Limited, those companies have refrained from declaring dividends which might pass through to RTZ, even though RTZ's view on the basis of legal advice received is that no infringement of the injunction would result from payment of such dividends.

RTZ and the Group companies concerned in the US anti-trust actions deny liability. Legal expenses are being charged against revenues as incurred but no further provision has been made. Having regard to the relevant facts and legal advice received, RTZ does not consider that the resolution of these proceedings will adversely affect the Group to a significant extent.

Dividends

The directors have declared a dividend of 1.5625p per share on the 3.325 per cent 'A' cumulative preference shares of the company and a dividend of 1.75p per share on the 3.5 per cent 'B' cumulative preference shares of the company both in respect of the half-year to 31 December 1980. These dividends will be paid on 2 January 1981 to holders of the London and Melbourne registers as at close of business on 28 November 1980 and to holders of share warrants in bearer representing 3.5 per cent 'B' cumulative preference shares on or after 2 January 1981 after presentation of coupon number 37.

The directors have declared an interim dividend of 3.50p per share in respect of the year to 31 December 1980 on the ordinary share capital of the company, compared with a 5.5p per share for 1979. The directors expect that in the absence of unforeseen circumstances, to recommend a final dividend for 1980 of not less than that paid for 1979 (10.50p per share).

The interim dividend on the ordinary shares will be paid on 2 January 1981 to holders on the London and Melbourne registers as at close of business on 28 November 1980 and to holders of share warrants in bearer on or after 2 January 1981 after presentation of coupon number 41. In the case of holders of ordinary shares and 'A' cumulative preference shares on the Melbourne register, payment of the foregoing dividends will be made in Australian currency at the rate of exchange ruling on 2 December 1980.

The dividends on the ordinary and preference shares will be paid without deduction of income tax and will carry a tax credit. This credit will be available principally to United Kingdom resident shareholders and also to certain shareholders resident outside the United Kingdom. The interim ordinary dividend for 1980 after adding the tax credit will be equivalent to a gross dividend of 7.86p per share (compared with 6.43p per share for the interim for 1979).

Accumulating ordinary shares

Holders of accumulating ordinary shares will receive on 2 January 1981 a further allotment of accumulating ordinary shares, credited as fully paid, on the basis of 0.01143 of a new share for every share held at the close of business on 28 November 1980. Fractions of less than one half of a share will be eliminated and fractions of one half of a share or more will be rounded up to one whole share. Holders of accumulating ordinary shares will also receive a dividend of 0.1p per share.

By order of the Board D. A. Skeathall Secretary
6 St. James's Square
London SW1A 4LD.
17 September 1980.

RTZ

Briefly

Stroud, Riley: Mr Harvey Ross, the Leeds coin dealer who said he was going to buy up to 29.5 per cent in the British textile group, Stroud, Riley, Drummond, yesterday sold his 18.6 per cent stake. This represented 658,938 shares, Mr Ross, of Harvey Mellers, said, vestments, is to form two new companies, Ross Oil and Ross Oil and Resources, to provide finance for natural resources companies.

G.T. James Investment Trust: Pre-tax profits, £452,000, 1980/81. Total dividend, 5.7p (10.12p) gross.

Garton Engineering: Turnover for half-year to June 30, £5.75m (1979 £5.5m). Pre-tax profits, £24,000 (1979 £20,000). Interim dividend, 4.5p gross. There seems little likelihood of a recovery in demand in the short term, the board warns.

Thomas Marshall (Lodley): Sales for first half of 1980, £9.36m (1979 £9.36m). Pre-tax profits, £125,000 (1979 £125,000). Interim payment unchanged at 1.71p gross.

John Bright Group: James Sharpe and Co on behalf of clients Largs Ltd., are prepared to bid through the market 51p for John Bright Group 51 per cent on £1 preference shares. The bid is subject to normal market expenses. Agreement for purchase has been reached with a number of institutional holders of stock. Offer to remain open until October 28.

Charles & Whitson: Total turn half-year to Aug 1 edge from £3.32m to £3.39m. Pre-tax profits, £226,000 (1979 £226,000). Interim dividend, £173,000 last time. Int. met. unchanged.

Corinthian Holdings: Int. 0.71p gross. Turnover year to June 30, £3.49m. Pre-tax profit £27,000. Interim dividend, 1.5p gross. Turnover year to June 30, £3.06m. Pre-tax profit £27,000. Interim dividend, 1.5p gross. Figures are open until October 28.

by Sir Frederick Wood, Chairman. First half results have been severely affected by high rates and energy costs, the strength of sterling depressed economic conditions in the home market. Pre-tax profits have been undermined by a loss of £1 Food Ingredients Group, mainly attributable to copper trading in Gelatin and animal by-products. Chemicals and Paints did well, exports have increased 12% over the comparable period in the previous year. Overseas profits are higher despite a setback in the Anilins market.

Although prospects for the second half are not encouraging, we are maintaining the interim dividend at last year's 1.5p net per share.

Interim Unaudited Profit Statement for the Six Months

29 June 1980

	6 Mths to 29 June 1980	6 Mths to 1 July 1979
	£000	£000
External Sales	138,679	127,553
Trading Profit:		
Associated Companies and Investments	6,828	8,733
	281	335
Net Interest Payable	6,807	9,068
Profit before Taxation	3,032	1,436
UK Taxation	56	1,184
Overseas Taxation	817	1,058
Profit after Taxation	2,902	5,390
Minority Interests and Preference Dividends	38	33
Unrealised Exchange Losses	2,864	6,357
Extraordinary Item	208	28
Net Profit after Taxation and Extraordinary Item available to Ordinary Shareholders	2,658	5,329
Amount absorbed by Ordinary Dividends	1,584	1,580
Profit Retained	1,074	3,749
Earnings per Share of 10p		
Basic	2.71p	5.10p
Fully Diluted	2.47p	4.80p
Ordinary Dividends		
—pence per share (net)		
Interim 1979		1.5p
Final 1979		
Announced 18 September 1980		
Interim 1980	1.5p	

Note: The interim dividend for 1980 will be paid on 8 December 1980. Holders registered on 7 November 1980.

Croda International
Cowick Hall Street
Goole North Hum
DN14 6AA

18 September 1980

FINANCIAL NEWS

Bankers give Kitchen Queen one year

Financial Staff
The loss-making Manchester company, Kitchen Queen, is fighting hard to stay alive after just two years as a public company.
The company has given it a year's grace in which to complete its substantial re-organisation and begin the long haul back to profitability.
Shareholders were warned yesterday that there will be no funds available for distribution for a considerable time. But Mr Leonard Morris, chairman, believes the company can recover in time.
Provisions made in February for losses on the retail outlets sold in June have now been increased by £1.5m to £2.25m.

Interim profits halved at Croda

By Peter Wainwright
Croda International was hit hard on almost every front in the half year to June 29. Sales rose from £127.55m to £138.58m but pretax profits plunged from £7.6m to £3.7m.
Croda suffered from a steep rise in energy prices like most United Kingdom-based chemical makers. The steel strike and the recession also took their toll. But perhaps the real disappointment was the £1.7m loss in food ingredients, blamed

mainly on continued poor trading in gelatin and animal by-products.
This side of the business was badly hurt in 1979 when gelatin suffered because of imports from the Continent and there was a turnaround of £1m from profits to losses. Further losses are forecast.
The six months were not all bad. In Britain organic chemicals and paints did much better, and despite a setback in the American inks market, most

divisions made headway abroad. Exports in terms of sterling rose by 12 per cent.
Net interest charges last year jumped from £1.93m to £3.43m, and in the latest six months net interest went up from £1.4m to £3m. But the group says particular attention is being paid to the reduction of working capital. Second half prospects are "not encouraging". But from earnings of 2.47p an unchanged interim of 1.5p is paid and the shares hardened.

Home improvements, repairs and maintenance markets result in record profits

Salient figures	Year to 31.3.80 £'000s	Year to 31.3.79 £'000s
Turnover	139,623	118,129
Profit before taxation	25,821	19,661
Profit after taxation	16,862	11,058
Earnings per 25p ordinary share	23.7p	15.7p
Dividend per 25p share (net)	7.5p	5.737037p

Magnet and Southernns still on the move

Pre-tax profits for the year are again a record, and for the third consecutive year a capitalisation issue of one new ordinary share for every two held is proposed.
Capital expenditure during the year totalled £8,700,000. Five new depots were opened and a further three since the year end with fourteen in the pipeline. Building work planned or under construction currently stands at £3,400,000.

Very shortly we will be launching a new range of high performance hardwood window frames. It is encouraging to note the increased emphasis on timber-frame housing, and steps have been taken for us to share in the expected increase in the consumption of timber and plywood.

S. Oxford, Chairman

Magnet Southernns
FOR ALL THAT'S GOOD IN WOOD

stair recovery continuing

Using the recovery started in the year to July, profits of Hestair, a stair-based industrial concern, bounced back in the year to July 31.
Turnover rose from £28.75m to £453,000. As for last year, there is no tax charge, after deducting extra-charge of £185,000, a profit of £270,000, compared with a loss of £149,000.
David Hargreaves, the said, the results showed a further modest recovery in the most difficult environment within the company's experience.

A further announcement will be made by Marler "as soon as possible". Marler's shares rose 9p to 105p yesterday.

Post profits slump

Half-year results to June 25 at the Liverpool Daily Post and Echo group showed a drop in pretax profits from £1.8m to £610,000 on a turnover which fell from £30m to £24.2m. Profits after taxation were £412,000, compared with £1.2m for the six-month period which saw the two-week strike by the NGA and a week of local industrial action. This knocked over £1m from pretax profits.

Nine months' sales up 13pc at Grand Met

The board of Grand Metropolitan reports that in the nine months to the end of June, the value of external sales of the group rose by about 13.3 per cent—excluding the Liggett Group—compared with the similar period last year. External sales include overseas sales.

Magnet & Southernns sales ahead

In the first five months of its current year, sales of Magnet and Southernns were 6 per cent up on the similar period last year. This was reported at yesterday's annual meeting by Mr S. Oxford, the chairman. The sales rise was due to increased values and really reflected a downturn in volume. But the downturn had not been evenly spread and occurred least in the area of the most profitable sales—repairs, maintenance and improvement. Profits for the five months show a small decrease, but, judged against the recession, represent a very good performance, the chairman said.

Rights issue by Bank of Near East

The London-based Commercial Bank of the Near East is to make a rights issue of 200,000 new shares at £5 each on a one-for-one basis. Net proceeds are estimated at £977,000. The new shares will not rank for any dividend for 1980, but the board expects to maintain the present rate of dividend on the bigger capital.

ng from ers' chief

Yesterday's annual meeting of the plant company, the chairman, J. R. Cater, warned shareholders that he believed they would not, for the year, match the results of the previous year. He pointed out that the company's sales of whisky, and holding up reasonably well in export markets, but moving ahead in Japan and elsewhere, which was a good result.

Estates may cover bid

and of Marler Estates, a London-based property company, yesterday that it was "not clear" whether it may lead to a bid for the company. A statement also said Marler board is "not aware" of any bid. The company's capital has in approach for a sub-part of its shareholders.

ithwaite & Co. Engineers Limited

nd Constructional Engineers
Steel Tank Manufacturers
from the statement of Humphries (Chairman)
Increased Trading Profit of £976,627 despite the effects of three major strikes in the economic recession.
Further capital expenditure at Newport Works to facilities for structural steelwork, and production at Plastic Recycling Ltd can be doubled.
Dividend increased substantially to a total of 7p 18p for the year.

	1980 £	1979 £
Turnover	£8,793,000	£10,466,000
Before Tax	976,627	526,712
After Tax	482,627	291,212
per share	17.6p	10.5p
Dividend	7p	4.87p

The Secretary, Ithwaite & Co. Engineers Limited, 100, Great East Road, Louth, Leicestershire, Notts NG23 3JL.

Associated Communications Corporation

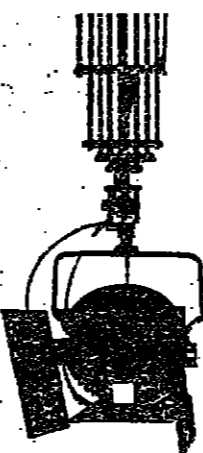


Lord Grade of Elstree, Chairman and Chief Executive, reports on the International Group

"The profit figure of £14,101,000 is the second highest in the 25-year history of the Company. Indeed, had it not been for a national industrial dispute which kept the whole of Independent Television off the air for eleven successive weeks, the profit would undoubtedly have exceeded the record of £16,308,000 which was achieved in 1978/79."

Television

ATV's current contract for seven-day-a-week television runs until 31st December 1981. By the end of 1980 the Independent Broadcasting Authority will reach its decision on the award of new contracts which will run for eight years. For the period of these contracts the Midlands franchise area will be a dual region comprising the East and West Midlands and ATV has applied for the contract.
A new company, ATV Midlands Limited, has already been set up and a second studio complex is planned for the East Midlands.

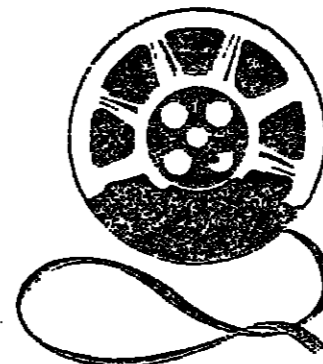


T.V. programmes

Initially a proportion of ATV productions will continue to be made at Elstree. Thereafter, Elstree will become available for additional television productions and for special programmes for export.
A new company, Daybreak Television, in which ACC has a minority interest, has made an application for the proposed nationwide breakfast-time television franchise, and Elstree has been suggested as the ideal production centre.

Films

Our subsidiaries now embrace all three aspects of production, distribution and exhibition and the acquisition of Classic Cinemas place more than 140 screens at our disposal. The full-length 'Muppet Movie' has broken box office records and its much sought after successor is already in production. Altogether, the film division production schedule has never been stronger.



Theatres

The theatre division enjoyed a year of truly outstanding successes and its profit figure of £1.1 million stands at an all-time record. The year saw packed houses for Yul Brynner in 'The King and I' at the Palladium and 'Amie' at the Victoria Palace. The theatrical costumiers, Bermans & Nathans, established new overseas records and their work is to be seen in London's exciting new attraction - The Palladium Cellars.

Music

Our main music publishing subsidiary, ATV Music, rose to be the No. 2 company in UK music publishing, and profits and prospects are both excellent. Its subsidiary company, Brufo Music, is now firmly established as a prominent supplier for both television and films.

Records

In common with all other record companies, Pye Records had to face a world-wide recession within the industry. Special attention is now being paid to the important new development of video cassettes and video discs.

Property

The results of Bentrax Investments—up from £3.5 million to £4.2 million—are impressive and the acquisition of Intereurope Property Holdings has added a new portfolio, including the important Eros site at Piccadilly Circus.

Telephone answering

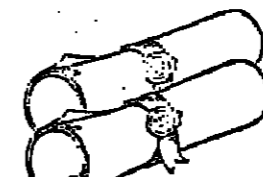
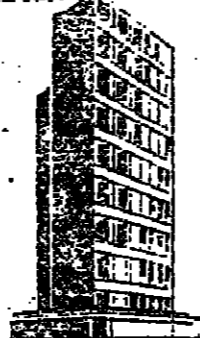
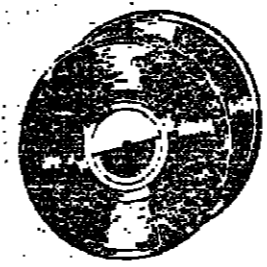
For the second year in succession the results of Ansafone have been outstandingly successful and in spite of competition at home and abroad the growth rate has been one of 40%.

Insurance

Two Bermudian companies were purchased by Marbach Insurance Company and a new company, Bryanston Insurance, has been established. Subsidiaries have been set up in Australia, Hong Kong and Gibraltar, and trading has been profitable throughout.

Jetsave

The Group acquired an 85% stake in Jetsave, a company which is both a pioneer and a leader in the rapidly growing field of trans-Atlantic holiday travel.



Copies of the full Report and Accounts for the year to 31st March 1980 are available from the Secretary, Associated Communications Corporation Limited, ACC House, 17 Great Cumberland Place, London W1A 1AG.

Rowntree Mackintosh

Interim Report for the 24 weeks to 14 June, 1980

	1979 £000	1978 £000	1977 £000
Turnover	284,330	249,000	601,321
Trading profit before depreciation	17,535	17,629	57,613
Depreciation	6,571	5,503	11,044
Trading profit	10,964	12,126	46,569
Interest less investment income	6,616	2,820	8,552
Share of associated companies' profits	—	—	2,415
Profit before taxation	4,293	9,306	40,432
Taxation	850	1,130	6,553
Profit after taxation	3,443	8,176	33,879
Minority interests	330	400	1,590
Profit attributable to Rowntree Mackintosh Limited before extraordinary items	3,113	7,776	32,289
Earnings per Ordinary Share	2.8p	7.2p	29.8p

Notes

- The unaudited interim figures above should be read in conjunction with the Chairman's Statement.
- Sales and profits of overseas subsidiary companies have been translated into sterling at the respective half year and year end exchange rates.
- No share of the profits of associated companies has been included in these interim results. An appropriate proportion of the full year results will be included in the annual accounts.
- Extraordinary items will arise in the year consisting principally of adjustments on translation of overseas net assets into sterling; at 14 June 1980 these items would have amounted to a total debit of £1.2m.

Chairman's Statement

Dividend

The Board has declared an interim dividend of 2.5p per share, (1979 2.5p per share). This will absorb £2,703,000 and will be payable on 5 January 1981 to Ordinary Shareholders registered at the close of business on 5 December 1980.

Trading conditions

Trading conditions in the first half year have been difficult. We have, however, maintained our commitment to the development of the business at home and overseas, and our sales and consumer loyalty to our brands are standing up well to the effects of the worldwide recession.

Trading profits before depreciation were held at last year's level but pre-tax profits were reduced by higher depreciation and substantially increased interest charges. These costs have a disproportionately large effect on first half profits.

Sales

Compared with the first half of 1979, Group sales turnover increased by 6%; sales volume was some 4% lower. Total non U.K. sales volume contributed by our European, Overseas and Export Divisions, was the same as in the previous year. Our U.K. confectionery sales volume was down by 6% against a fall in total U.K. industry volume of 9%. The substantial increase in V.A.T. in July 1979 is a major reason for the drop in sales volume; there has also been significant trade de-stocking which no doubt reflected this factor, high interest rates and views about the effects of the recession on consumer spending.

Market shares

Generally, our market shares continue to increase in all our major markets in the face of severe competition. Exports, given the difficult conditions, contributed a particularly good performance and increased our share of total U.K. confectionery exports to a new record.

Margins

Trading margins are lower than in recent years. This reflects both the highly competitive situation in the market place and the high sterling exchange rate. These factors particularly affected the results of our European operations.

Investment

As I told shareholders in the last annual report, we have maintained our substantial investment in fixed assets; by the end of 1980 we shall have spent some £130m in the previous three years. In the short term, the effect on earnings of this development expenditure is reflected in higher depreciation and interest charges.

Outlook

It is not possible to make a meaningful forecast of the results of the full year. These will depend importantly on patterns of consumer spending and retailer confidence, which are not yet clear. Movements in interest and currency rates will also have an effect on earnings. We expect that in the competitive situation which has developed, trading margins will continue to be under some pressure for the remainder of this year.

We are confident, however, that the expenditure on productivity and increased capacity is fully justified by planned market developments, by the strength of our brands, and by the potential for profitable volume growth in less unfavourable economic conditions.

Donald Barron, Chairman

101 EAST - QUALITY STREET - CHARTERS - FOLD - BLACK LIPS - GOOD BILLS - FIVE QUADRANT CHIPS
ROWNTREE'S PASTILLES - AFTER EIGHT - WEEK-END - ALSO - FOLD - BERRY BARK - TUFFO - LADYBIRDS
JELLYTOTS - WALNUT WHIPS - LION BAR - CASABLANCA - YOLINE - BLUE RUMBA - BRANWYN - LIONETS
CREAMOLA - PAN VAN PICKLES - TABLE JELLIES - SUN-PAT PEARLY BUTTER - CHOCOLATE CHIPS

The Times Special Reports

All the subject matter on all the subjects that matter

FINANCIAL NEWS

Booker reorganizes as profits fall

By Catherine Gunn

Booker McConnell is expanding its successful food distribution side with the acquisition of two mainland subsidiaries of Northern Irish group Callagher, for between £7m and £8m. The newcomers, added to Booker Belmont Wholesale, will make it the largest food cash-and-carry group in this fragmented industry.

The acquisition was announced with the group's interim results yesterday. The food business itself did quite well, in spite of higher borrowings, after January's acquisition of Kearley & Tongue; and made £2.85m, up from £2.36m. But trouble with the engineering

interests and substantially higher group interest cost more than halved Booker McConnell's first-half profits at June 30 to £4.37m pre-tax. Sales were 14 per cent better at £349.3m. Mr Michael Caine, chairman, expects the group to recover sufficiently to make second-half profits similar to 1979's £12.5m. That would give Booker full-year profits of around £17m, against £22m.

The interim dividend has been held at 1.79p gross. The shares edged up 1p to 54p after the news.

Roughly half of the £3.26m rise in interest costs to £4.68m reflects acquisition costs. Net borrowings are now around

£50m, but should ease a bit by December. At the end of 1979 they stood at £28.5m net. Some £15m of assets are for sale in the next few months. Sales brought in £2.04m, net of closure and exchange costs, in the first half.

Some 400 people have been made redundant in the troubled engineering division and one company has been closed, at a cost of £363,000. Engineering profits were "token", £258,000, against £341m; itself a drop. Improvements from loss-makers are looked for this half.

The Plenty group and Thermotics were the main culprits. Thermotics is expected to recover lost ground, but Plenty

may be the subject of further rationalization. Other engineering interests had mixed fortunes.

The shipping side has now been knocked into shape, and profits recovered from £449,000 to £562,000. Some £10m net of disposals has gone into three new liners and a coastal tanker.

Meanwhile, food distribution acquisitions, including Booker's 45 per cent share of United States poultry breeder and seed merchant IBC, are expected to increase their contribution and more than cover their interest costs this half. IBC will become increasingly important to the group.

Cowie wins move to oust Ewer men

By Our Financial Staff

Cowie, the Sunderland-based motor trader, has succeeded in removing three directors of the recently-acquired George Ewer from the board. At an extraordinary meeting of Ewer in Sunderland yesterday Mr Henry Ewer, the former chairman, Mr Anthony Vincent, deputy chairman, and Mr David Ewer were all voted off the board. The row that led to the meeting began when Ewer announced in April that it was to buy Eastern Tractors, just 16 days before Cowie bid for Ewer.

Cowie now says this action was "taken on the advice of leading counsel as being appropriate in the context of the impending legal proceedings against former directors of George Ewer arising from Ewer's acquisition of Eastern Tractors Holdings".

Samuel Montagu, the merchant bank advisers to Cowie, said yesterday it fully endorsed the company's action in this matter.

Mr Henry Ewer has started High Court proceedings to recover the money which he claims is due to him and his colleagues, and is currently being held by Cowie in a specially designated account. Mr Ewer's application will be made on November 3.

Yesterday's meeting began with Mr Henry Ewer claiming that he had been refused entry to the room and was followed by a dispute over who should be chairman. Mr Vincent was eventually elected.

Mr H. Ewer commented that the board's proposal was a "poor reward" for their efforts, and said he was confident that the E.T. deal would make significant profits for the company.



Associated Communications Corporation: Lord Grade (right), the chairman, talks to Mr Jack Gill, the deputy chairman, at yesterday's annual meeting in London. Lord Grade made no comment on current trading at ACC at the meeting but did

comment afterwards that the company's latest film *Raise the Titanic* had opened disappointingly in the United States. He said the film was doing well, but not as well as the company would have liked. Last year ACC's profits fell from £16.3m to £14.1m.

JFB deal goes wrong

By Our Financial Staff

A deal between Johnson & Firth Brown and Amalgamated Industrials appears to have gone badly wrong.

A statement yesterday from AI said it had instructed its solicitors to start "appropriate legal proceedings" to claim restoration of the position prevailing before a contract announced last month; the repudiation of the contract or declaration that the contract is void; and damages and certain interlocutory relief.

The contract dates back to July 15 and involves an option granted by AI to JFB for JFB to acquire certain trading subsidiaries including Everbright

Fasteners, Lion Steel Equipment, Gils Pressure Castings and Stainless and Alloy Steels. The consideration for options was £250,000 in unsecured loan stock and an additional sum of up to £270,000 upon exercise of the option. The net assets being transferred amounted to £314,000.

AI's statement said action had now been taken to set aside the contract as being void or avoidable "alternatively the said contract has been repudiated" by JFB.

JFB was taken by surprise by the announcement, and had nothing to say at this stage while AI declined to offer any clarification.

Overseas division boosts ANI

Australian National Industries announced a profit of A\$20.17m (£10m) for the year ended June 30, making this its thirteenth consecutive year of growth. Profits from its overseas division were substantially above those of the previous year.

Sales, profits, and earnings and dividends per share were at record levels. For the first time pre-tax profit exceeded

International

A\$30m and profit after tax exceeded A\$20m.

The final dividend is to be increased 24 per cent, being 7.2 cents per 30 cent ordinary share on the issued ordinary capital of the company payable on October 31. The distribution

for the year ended June 30 is 42 per cent, being 12.6 cents per ordinary share, compared with 11.7 cents per ordinary share last year.

Total sales increased by 10 per cent over last year. Total net trading profit was A\$20.17m compared with A\$17.54m the previous year, a growth of 15.7 per cent. Pre-tax profits also increased by 15 per cent. Taxation expense was 33 per cent of pre-tax profits.

Leasco buys more Reliance

Leasco intends to purchase an additional 1.25m shares of common stock of Reliance Group Incorporated from time to time at prevailing market prices.

The announcement follows securities and exchange commission approval on Tuesday of

Leasco's application which requested an exemption from the Investment Company Act of 1940 for the purpose of purchasing stock.

Leasco now owns 250,000 shares of Reliance Group's common stock.

Schlumberger deal

Schlumberger has agreed to acquire Manufacturing Data System Inc in a tax-free exchange of stock. The transaction will involve the exchange of 0.425 of each Schlumberger common share based on a three-for-two stock split for every Manufacturing share. Schlumberger said there are about 2,99m Manufacturing shares outstanding, and about 1.27m Schlumberger pre-split shares would be issued.

Marine Wendel profit

Marine Wendel made a net profit of 9m francs in the year to June 30, against a net loss of 58m francs over the previous 18 months. Operating profits were 25.45m francs compared with 22m. The dividend was 4.50 francs. The last dividend paid was 6 francs for the 16-month period to December 31, 1976.—Reuter.

Canada's biggest issue

Canada Development Corporation has fixed its convertible voting preferred share issue at \$300m, the maximum authorized by its by-laws, because of strong investor interest.

The issue, the largest ever conventional underwritten equity issue in Canada, will carry a dividend rate of 7.5 per cent a year, payable quarterly. Each preferred share carries one shareholder vote and may

Business appointments

New director for Jersey General Investment Trust

Mr Jurat Peter Gilroy Blampied has joined the board of Jersey General Investment Trust Limited. Mr Leslie Wall, a non-executive director of The Liverpool Daily Post and Echo since 1979, is to be vice-chairman.

Dr Ivan Klimes has been made a director and associate publisher of *Paragon*.

Mr John Wallrock, chairman of Miner Holdings, has joined the board of the Carson & Black Corporation of America.

Mr T. P. O'Sullivan has become chairman, Mr R. E. Beveridge managing director, and Mr E. W. Llewellyn and Mr J. E. Walker directors of a new company called Marley Properties.

Mr S. William Willson, has been elected chairman of the Birmingham Building Society.

Mr R. B. Hayward, group managing director, National Carriers Group; Mr J. D. Mather, group managing director, Special Traffic Group; Mr J. K. Watson, director of finance, National Freight Corporation; and Mr D. H. White, group managing director, British Road Services Group, have been made executive directors of The National Freight Company. Mr F. S. Law, Mr P. G. Scott, Mr J. E. B. Sieve, Mr P. H. Spridell and Sir Ronald Swayne are now non-executive directors. The secretary to the board is Mr P. A. Mayo, NEC's director of legal services.

Astra buys into Evered

By Our Financial Staff

Astra Industrial Group, which recently announced its intention to move out of engineering interests, yesterday acquired 10.6 per cent in Evered Holdings, the metals-to-plastic group.

Mr Dennis Dukes, chairman of Astra, said he would continue to buy in Evered so long as the shares were offered at

20p. Astra, with interests in heavy press tool manufacturing, scrap processing and steel stockholding, declared its move out of engineering and into metals in July. Evered, also based in the West Midlands, has interests in engineering and property. Mr Dukes said it would be interesting to exchange some of Astra's engineering interests with property from Evered.

Interest charges hit profits at Steeley

By Peter Wainwright

Steeley, the miner refractory linings and chemical group, has so far come through the recession in good order, the half-year to June 30, as rose by 33 per cent to £178, and it was left to stiffen its

charges (less investor income) of £3.85m to £9.58m lower profits before tax to £9.84m to £9.98m, against £23.51m in the full year.

Lord Boardman, chairman, reports that operating profit rose by 10 per cent but interest rates and the cost buying Gibbons Dudley American acquisitions stop this increase coming through the pre-tax level.

The cost of the United Kingdom steel strike is put roughly £4.5m. However, consequences are still with group which has embarked

general downturn in trade was something that export-reached £21m compared £13m in the same month last year, although the 10 pound narrowed margins.

Gibbons Dudley is said to have done as well as was indicated at the time of the merger, going in the French mine operations and in Aust helped overseas business

24 per cent increase. How United States acquisition Ohio Lime suffered from United States recession, V. Steel, under-estimated.

Result was a fall in earnings from 15.41p to 10.19p, but interim stays at 4.0p net 5.7p gross. The shares fell 7p to 538p.

Steeley refused two offers to join in the seven round of oil licence applications because the losses were too high as daunting as the price of raw materials processes dolomite, map and bentonite used in industry from North Sea drilling in making, and from food printing to toiletries.

CAPITAL SPENDING

The following are the revised published statistics, by the Dept of Industry, for the revised estimate of the total amount of capital spending for the increase in the v stocks all reasonably adjusted prices.

	£m	Investment total	Mfg	Ch's
1978	8,729	3,773		
1979	8,598	3,673		
1980 Q1	2,178	818		
Q2	2,208	690		
Q3	2,182	642		
Q4	2,238	953		
1978 Q1	2,227	864		
Q2	2,222	962		
Q3	2,297	889		
Q4	2,430	877		
1980 Q1	2,399	846		
Q2	2,384	902		

Bank Bas Rates

ABN Bank 1
Barclays 1
BCCI 1
Consolidated Crdts 1
C. Hoare & Co 1
Lloyds Bank 1
Midland Bank 1
Nat Westminster 1
Paribas 1
Rosenminster 1
TSB 1
Williams and Glyn's 1

* 7 day deposit on sum of £10,000 and under 14%
£50,000 15%.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited
27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 11

The Over-the-Counter Market

1979/80	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch's	Gross Div'tp	Yld %
99	51	49	Airsprung Group	51	—	6.7	13.1
50	21	20	Armstrong & Rhodes	21	—	1.4	6.4
172	92	91	Bardon Hill	172	—	9.7	5.6
100	74	73	County Cars Pref	74	—	15.3	20.7
101	63	62	Deborah Ord	63	—	5.5	2.7
136	98	97	Frank Russell	123	—	12.4	6.4
129	65	64	Frederick Parker	66	—	11.0	16.7
156	84	83	George Blair	84	—	16.5	19.6
84	45	44	Jackson Group	82	—	6.0	7.3
153	105	104	James Burrrough	101	—	7.9	10.5
305	242	241	Robert Jenkins	305	—	3.3	10.2
232	175	174	Tordis Limited	220	—	15.1	6.9
34	10	9	Twinlock Ord	11	—	—	—
90	70	69	Twinlock 15% ULS	34	—	15.0	17.9
56	23	22	Unilock Holdings	45	—	3.0	5.6
101	42	41	Walker Alexander	100	—	5.7	5.7
245	136	135	W. S. Yeates	245	—	12.1	4.9

* Accounts not prepared under provision of SSAP15.

Relatprint

The small offset printing machine manufacturer and supplier reprographic equipment and consumable supplies.

Results for the year ended 29th March 1980.

	1979/80	1978/79
Sales—United Kingdom	£10,745,000	£9,875,000
Overseas (including direct exports)	£4,532,000	£4,545,000
Trading Profit	£278,000	£245,000
Profit after tax and interest	£107,000	£100,000
Extraordinary reserve items	£100,000	£20,000
Net Profit	£207,000	£120,000

Chairman Geoffrey Nichols states that "1979/80 was probably the difficult year in the Company's history and having regard to the results the continuing difficult conditions, the Board does not feel justified in recommending any final dividend. Measures are being taken which will be put into effect in the near future and a more favourable situation will be possible."

Conservable supplies business has a light foot with volume margins being maintained in spite of high competition in the U.K. market brought down to levels where manufacturing industry can compete world and on this worldwide basis there must be an economic improvement as will put international trade moving again."

A.G.M., 19th September 1980 at 12.0 noon at Relatprint House, Hone Lane, London, NW9 6SE.

The Queen's Awards 1981 - the time to apply is now

The Queen's Awards for Exports and Technology are highly prized and hard to win. They are given annually to companies that have made outstanding contributions to exports or technology or both.

To enter for The Queen's Awards, your company can be of any size, but it must be based in the United Kingdom.

The Queen's Award is more than an honour: it's an excellent advertisement for your company. If you win, you are entitled to use the emblem in your advertising and promotions.

Entries must be in by October 31st, so find out more about The Queen's Awards by posting this coupon.

To: The Secretary, The Queen's Awards Office,
Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AG.
Please send me details and entry form.

Name _____
Name of Company _____
Address _____

TQ2

Exports ☐ Technology ☐ Both ☐ (tick as appropriate)
Completed applications must be returned by October 31st 1980

